

**Town of Richmond
Selectboard Meeting
Minutes of February 2, 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; Keith Osborne, Town Planner; Matthew Cohen, Interim Police Chief; Suzanne Krohn, Librarian

Others Present: Recorded by MMCTV Erin Wagg, Alexis, amiedeprince, Amy M, Andrew Bessette, Aubrey Carpenter, Ben Novogroski, Bonny Steuer, Brendan Filkins, Caitlin Littlefield, Cathy Aikman, Chelsye Brooks, Clint Buxton, Connie van Eeghen, Corali Bisbee, Daniel Martin, Doris, dVT, Emilie Tenenbaum, Emily Smith, Erin Farr, Gretchen, Paulsen, Howard Jennings, Ian Bender, Jared Katz, Jean Bressor, Jean Haskin, Jeff Forward, jilld, Julia Brennan, Katie Donovan, Katie Loesel, Katie's iPhone, Kevin Kittenger, Linda Gionti, Marcy Harding, Marty, Mary Harrison, Mary Houle. Matt Crabb, Matt Moulthrop, Matthew Thompson, Noa, Paige Kaleita, Patty Brushett, Polly's , Pad, Rachel Atkins, Reid Webster, Sarah Heim, Sarah Moultroupe, Sean Donovan, Scott Silverstein, Stefani Hartsfield, Tom Bednar, Tom S, Trevor Brooks, Velma

MMCTV Video: <https://youtu.be/onggqqyJaT0?si=7aoDEDSiQdDt8mid>

Call to Order: 7:04 p.m.

Welcome by: Wood

Public Comment:

Houle cautioned the Selectboard against warning or advising anybody what they can and can't do. Houle asked about the forms for the Charitable Appropriation requests on the ballot. Arneson confirmed the information is available online:

<https://www.richmondvt.gov/news/post/annual-town-meeting-march-3-2026>

Article 10. Shall the voters of the Town of Richmond approve appropriating \$500.00 to Vermont Family Network to be raised by taxes to provide support to Richmond families with children with special needs, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support thereof?

Article 11. Shall the voters of the Town of Richmond approve appropriating \$3,500.00 to Age Well to be raised by taxes to provide support and guidance to Town residents aged 60 years and older, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support thereof?

Article 12. Shall the voters of the Town of Richmond approve appropriating \$375.00 to VT Center for Independent Living to be raised by taxes for providing services to enhance the lives of Town residents with disabilities, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support thereof?

Article 13. Shall the voters of the Town of Richmond approve appropriating \$1,000.00 to The Committee on Temporary Shelter to be raised by taxes to provide emergency shelter, services, and housing for Town residents who are homeless or marginally housed, such amount being

49 reasonably necessary for the support thereof?

50 Article 14. Shall the voters of the Town of Richmond approve appropriating \$6,000.00 to Our
51 Community Cares Camp to be raised by taxes to provide enrichment and food services to
52 children, internship opportunities for youth, job training, and development for young adults for
53 Town residents, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support thereof?

54 Article 15. Shall the voters of the Town of Richmond approve appropriating \$1,500.00 to Steps
55 to End Domestic Violence to be raised by taxes for assisting Town residents who have been
56 affected physically, sexually, emotionally, or economically by domestic abuse in the transition to
57 a safe, independent life, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support thereof?

58 Article 16. Shall the voters of the Town of Richmond approve appropriating \$5,000.00 to
59 Turning Point Center of Chittenden County to be raised by taxes to provide to Town residents an
60 inclusive compassionate community supporting those on multiple paths to recovery through peer-
61 driven services in a safe, substance-free environment, such amount being reasonably necessary
62 for the support thereof?

63 Article 17. Shall the voters of the Town of Richmond approve appropriating \$1,885.00 to
64 HOPE Works to be raised by taxes for their work to end all forms of sexual violence to Town
65 residents, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support thereof?

66 Article 18. Shall the voters of the Town of Richmond approve appropriating \$2,000.00 to
67 Howard Center Inc. to be raised by taxes for their work to help Town residents thrive by
68 providing supports and services to address mental health, substance use, and developmental
69 needs, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support thereof?

70

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

72

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

74

75

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

78 Timestamp: 0:03

79

80 Wood summarized the Informational Meetings for the items that are going to be on the
81 ballot on Town Meeting Day. Arneson stated that he would post the budget information:

82 <https://www.richmondvt.gov/calendar/meeting/special-selectboard-budget-informational-2-7-26>

83 <https://www.richmondvt.gov/calendar/meeting/special-selectboard-budget-informational-2-23-26>

84

85

86 **Update on conversation with attorney regarding his behavior in Selectboard**
87 **meetings**

88 Timestamp: 0:04

89

90 Arneson reviewed that he and Wood had a meeting with the attorney, David Rugh, about
91 his interactions with the public. In public sessions, he needs to keep in mind that the

92 Town residents are paying attorney fees, and he needs to make sure that he's treating

93 residents in a respectful manner. Wood stated that the attorney gives the Selectboard

94 sound legal advice and he could help the Selectboard enact the policies as they see fit.

95

96

97 **Consideration of setting a date for a public hearing to review the changes made by**
98 **the Selectboard at their January 21, 2026 meeting to the 2026 Town Plan that will**
99 **be voted on by the voters on Town Meeting Day, March 3, 2026**

100 Timestamp: 0:05

101 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3c_Memo_-](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3c_Memo_-_Need_for_an_additional_Town_Plan_Public_Hearing.pdf)
102 [_Need_for_an_additional_Town_Plan_Public_Hearing.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3c_Memo_-_Need_for_an_additional_Town_Plan_Public_Hearing.pdf)

103

104 Osborne reviewed that on January 21, changes were made to the Town Plan which
105 requires a Planning Commission report reviewed via a public hearing. The Planning
106 Commission has a meeting this week to review the report for the February 17 Selectboard
107 meeting.

108

109 *Hill moved to hold a public hearing for the 2026 Town Plan on Tuesday, February 17,*
110 *2026. Sander seconded.*

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

112

113

114 **Follow up on the discussion of the school budget, specifically regarding funding for**
115 **the pre-k program as presented in the last meeting with the Selectboard**

116 Timestamp: 0:08

117 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3d_Letter_to](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3d_Letter_to_Richmond_Selectboard_1.pdf)
118 [_Richmond_Selectboard_1.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3d_Letter_to_Richmond_Selectboard_1.pdf)

119

120 Wood summarized that the Selectboard wouldn't weigh in on school issues as it is a
121 separate budget entirely. The Superintendent and a small group of people from the
122 Schoolboard asked for help in spreading the word about the challenges they faced.
123 Sander reviewed that the Schoolboard pared down a lean budget, but it is thrown into the
124 State Educational formula to calculate the burden on the taxpayers.

125

126 Wood stated that there was a pretty serious change to Richmond and MMU's pre-K
127 program. There's a lot of trust lost between stakeholders and the Schoolboard. Filkins
128 stated that she met with the Superintendent about a lack of clear communication and
129 transparency. Filkins confirmed that an RFP was issued to provide service in conjunction
130 with the school service. The RFP is one piece of a larger exploration and not the only
131 path being considered. Filkins stated that an email went out to pre-K families with an
132 upcoming meeting for input. DonovanS acknowledged and thanked the district for
133 responding to family concerns around transparency and adding additional feedback
134 opportunities. DonovanS stated that this should matter to the Selectboard because early
135 childhood education is a community and budget issue. Vermont is facing a declining
136 population and aging workforce. Wood summarized that trust has been broken and the

137 only way to get it back is through thoughtful communication, clearly articulating what
138 problem they're going to try to solve.

139

140

141 **Announcement of police officer hiring**

142 Timestamp: 0:20

143

144 Arneson announced that they are hiring another police officer, Blake Allen, who has over
145 20 years of experience in Vermont and his first day will be Thursday, February 5.

146

147

148 **Acknowledgement of receipt of a letter regarding Article 3 on the Town Meeting**
149 **Warning which is a vote on a pledge to join others in working to end all support to**
150 **Israel's apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation**

151 Timestamp: 0:22

152 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3f_2026-01-](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3f_2026-01-30_Letter_to_Richmond_Selectboard.pdf)
153 [30_Letter_to_Richmond_Selectboard.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3f_2026-01-30_Letter_to_Richmond_Selectboard.pdf)

154

155 Wood reviewed that Article 3 is warned on the Town Meeting and there is no option to
156 change that because of statutory requirements.

157

158 Silverstein summarized that he wrote the letter in the packet and passed it around for
159 signatures. Silverstein stated that this pledge doesn't do anything to help the Palestinians.
160 Silverstein stated that it is a non-binding measure and it puts language out there that
161 smears him. A small number of people in Richmond are going to set a world affairs
162 statement for the entire Town.

163

164 Hill reviewed previous meetings where the Selectboard debated putting this on the Town
165 Warning. Harding suggested an option where it would be tabled at Town Meeting.
166 Wood confirmed with Town Moderator, Buxton, that he would study it, but he thinks it is
167 possible. Thompson stated that the pledge gets kind of boiled down into very short
168 phrases that don't really adequately address the complexity of things. Thompson stated
169 that it's better to have a dialog about things like this, and a resolution closes off dialog
170 between people. He is supportive of a lot of the goals of the resolution, but he does not
171 feel like the effect will be positive and constructive. Katie's iPhone stated that this
172 resolution feels really pointless and divisive. This could potentially be something that
173 Richmond codifies. Katie's iPhone suggested putting it off the table for now until due
174 diligence can be done and other voices can be heard.

175

176 Filkins summarized that it would come up on the Town Meeting floor so there would be a
177 conversation regardless. Filkins stated that she was grateful to hear the public comment
178 in the room before it got to the floor of Town Meeting. There can be amendments that
179 are voted on in the Town Meeting room. Marty stated that she was initially supportive of

180 the pledge but is changing her stance based on what she is hearing from other community
181 members. Marty stated that there are people who don't feel safe as it's really stressful and
182 uncomfortable to be a Jewish person right now. Hartsfield stated it should be tabled as
183 the Town can have respectful dialog, but they are not ready for this year's Town Meeting.
184 Hartsfield summarized how scary it was when she found out it was going to voice vote at
185 Town Meeting.

186

187 Rabideau stated that he doesn't think it's the business of the Selectboard to be conducting
188 foreign policy. Rabideau stated that it's a fundamental American value that you have a
189 right to petition the government. The best antidote is to show up with a better argument
190 at Town Meeting as it is a forum for people. Hill reviewed that it is possible to move
191 from a voice vote to a paper vote from the floor.

192

193 Filkins and Buxton confirmed that there are procedures for passing over an Article so it is
194 not discussed at Town Meeting. Filkins requested that the Selectboard and Moderator
195 make sure there is a respectful conversation where people feel safe. Novogroski
196 observed that there was an amendment to add an item to the ballot. Wood confirmed that
197 the Selectboard amended it and then voted to warn it before the statutory required
198 Warning. Hill reviewed that the Selectboard does not run Town Meeting as it is the
199 Moderator. Buxton confirmed that is correct, but the Selectboard decides on the germane
200 nature of the Articles put on the Warning. Hill summarized that it is a question of how it
201 would come up at Town Meeting, warned in advance or brought up from the floor.

202

203

204 **Overview of citizens' rights when interacting with federal agents**

205 Timestamp: 1:02

206 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3g_Informati
207 [on_for_Interactive_with_Federal_Agents_3_.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3g_Informati)

208

209 Filkins summarized the next three things on the agenda are somewhat related to the
210 unprecedented times. Filkins stated that this is a moment in our country when people
211 need to know their rights and neighbors have their backs, and their Town won't look
212 away. Filkins reviewed that Chief Cohen demonstrates a Police Department that really
213 serves and protects this community.

214

215 Cohen summarized that his presentation is for educational purposes and not legal advice
216 as everyone has to make their own choices going forward. Cohen stated that this is a
217 broader picture of public safety so our population knows what they can and cannot do
218 and how to keep themselves safe when interacting with federal agents. Cohen reviewed
219 that he puts a lot of information on the presentation in the packet. Cohen confirmed that
220 the Richmond Police serve as credible witnesses between ICE agents and protesters.

221 They are unbiased witnesses of what's happening, reporting back facts of the case.

222 Cohen stated that they want to keep everyone informed

223

224

225 **Consideration of approving a list of resources for interactions with federal agents**

226 Timestamp: 1:42

227 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3h_KnowYourRightsRichmond.pdf

229

230 Wood stated that Filkins worked with Richmond Racial Equity to publish a list of
231 resources provided in the packet. Filkins summarized the request to post this resource list
232 on the Town website. Filkins highlighted the different options from the packet.

233

234 *Sander moved to approve posting the list of resources for interactions with federal agents*
235 *on the Town website. Rabideau seconded. Roll Call Vote follows discussion.*

236

237 Filkins confirmed that she will make sure all the links are the appropriate ones. Sander
238 stated that he trusts the version that will be posted will be screened.

239

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

241

242

243 **Discussion of a resolution to Condemn Surveillance and Enforcement Practices of**
244 **Federal Immigration Agencies**

245 Timestamp: 1:46

246 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3i_Richmond](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3i_RichmondVT_Resolution_DRAFT.pdf)
247 [_VT_Resolution_DRAFT.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3i_RichmondVT_Resolution_DRAFT.pdf)

248

249 Wood stated that this resolution is specific to ICE and other Federal immigration
250 agencies. A similar resolution recently passed in Williston. Wood stated that any
251 Federal, State, or local agency that is actively making neighbors and residents lives more
252 dangerous should cease to do so.

253

254 Arneson reviewed that this was warned as a discussion for feedback and it would come
255 back at the next meeting to consider adoption. Bessette asked if the Selectboard is trying
256 to turn Richmond into a sanctuary city/village. Wood stated that the intent was to
257 condemn the action of Federal immigration agencies that are possibly illegal and making
258 citizens' lives more dangerous. Rabideau stated that this is a reaffirmation of the Fourth
259 Amendment. Hill stated that the First and Fourth Amendments are in the preamble
260 because there have been activities that are unconstitutional. This is about what happens
261 to our citizens as opposed to a sanctuary city. Wood observed the references to the
262 Presidential Memorandum and the important distinction that this is relevant to everyone
263 no matter status, religion, color, or sex. Hill stated that there might be more edits
264 between now and the final reading and potential vote. Forward stated that they are a
265 small Town, but they have the opportunity and responsibility to inspire other towns and

266 elected officials to stand up and take a stance. Wood illustrated that if anyone has any
267 comments, they could send them prior to the next meeting where the Selectboard would
268 entertain amendments.

269

270

271 **Update on Climate Smart Communities Initiative which focuses on flood hazard**
272 **mitigation activities**

273 Timestamp: 1:58

274

275 Littlefield summarized the grant opportunity that would aim to support Richmond's
276 ongoing climate resilience efforts. She is doing it as a Richmond resident and as a
277 professional climate adaptation practitioner. This initiative provides \$75,000-\$215,000 to
278 advance climate resilience planning with a community's prioritization and
279 implementation. Littlefield stated that she would be working in partnership with
280 Richmond to advance a project that would build capacity around flood mitigation on
281 private lands. She has been working with the Friends of the Winooski River as well as
282 the Vermont Land Trust. Wood stated that he is optimistic and hopeful to see how this
283 plays out. Rabideau observed that small changes upstream can have big impacts
284 downstream. Littlefield stated that the grant submission is early March and she will keep
285 the Selectboard posted.

286

287

288 **Consideration of approving request from Morton Arboretum to conduct a study of**
289 **Butternut trees in Overocker Park**

290 Timestamp: 2:04

291 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3k1_Butternut_Tree_Study_Overocker_Park.pdf

292

293 Arneson described how the Tree Warden, Littlefield, and the Conservation Commission
294 reviewed and approved of the request by Morton Arboretum in the packet. Rabideau
295 stated that Butternut trees are an economically important tree and a good source of
296 lumber.

297

298
299 *Filkins move to approve Morton Arborretum's Butternut tree study in Overocker Park.*
300 *Sander seconded.*

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

302

303

304 **Discussion of Selectboard agenda item wording and posting of public hearings**

305 Timestamp: 2:06

306

307 Wood summarized that this is to discuss the language the Selectboard uses when posting
308 warnings. There has been criticism that the language is too broad and vague for people to

309 know what the Selectboard is trying to warn.

310

311 Arneson reviewed that this came up with the recent Public Hearing on the Traffic
312 Ordinance. Arneson illustrated the Richmond charter states they have to post a notice
313 one week in advance of the Public Hearing in a paper of record. Arneson reviewed that
314 he lists out line by line, what's going to be changed then leaves a copy with the Town
315 Clerk, posts it in physical locations around the Town Center area, posts it in the paper
316 public record, and posts it on the website. Arneson stated that going forward he will post
317 it on Front Porch Forum the same day he sends it to the paper of record. Arneson stated
318 that he is going to summarize the agenda items with a little bit more description.

319

320 Filkins suggested that other residents can help spread the word about the warning using
321 other channels like Facebook. Hill stated that he applauds this as it's the right level of
322 detail. Wood stated that it is not reasonable to assume that you would read the warning
323 title or the agenda item and know everything to be informed on a topic, but it is
324 reasonable to expect enough to know you want to investigate it further. Brooks asked
325 about the details of the warnings on the Seven Days website. Hill observed the Seven
326 Days website and thought it had that level of detail provided. Wood stated that whatever
327 they are doing now seems to be working and they have a plan to keep that going forward.
328 Arneson asked Brooks to send him any links on where she thinks they can be more
329 descriptive. Arneson reviewed how he uses an * and # at the end of agenda items:

330 *Denotes Action Item # Indicates documents in the packet

331

332

333 **Update on an agreement for engineering for the Southview Stormwater 3-Acre**
334 **Permit and extension of deadline to submit Notice of Intent while still utilizing grant**
335 **funds**

336 Timestamp: 2:19

337 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3m_email_on](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3m_email_on_NOI_deadline_extension.pdf)
338 [_NOI_deadline_extension.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3m_email_on_NOI_deadline_extension.pdf)

339

340 Filkins recused herself as a resident of Southview.

341

342 Wood stated that the State would not formally extend the deadline right now but if they
343 submit an NOI past the deadline then the State would consider providing grant funds for
344 engineering. Arneson stated the federal deadline is August 2026 as it is tied to ARPA
345 money. Arneson stated that Watershed Consulting thinks the NOI can be submitted by
346 June or July. The engineer will provide a scope of work for a budget presentation to the
347 Selectboard. The Selectboard and Town Manager will filter the feedback from the
348 property owners. Wood stated that they will act as a project manager so Watershed
349 Consulting can focus on the engineering and the design.

350

351

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

355 Timestamp: 2:28

356

357 Filkins recused herself as a resident of Southview.

358

359 Wood summarized that they have an updated agreement from the attorney and have been
360 in continued talks with GERA.

361

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

366 *Roll Call Vote:*

367 *Hill, Rabideau, Sander, Wood in favor. Filkins recused. Motion approved.*

368

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

374 *Roll Call Vote:*

375 *Hill, Rabideau, Sander, Wood in favor. Filkins recused. Motion approved.*

376

377 *Sander moved to exit executive session. Hill seconded.*

378 *Roll Call Vote:*

379 *Hill, Rabideau, Sander, Wood in favor. Filkins recused. Motion approved.*

380

381 *Sander moved to approve the Stormwater System Maintenance Agreement with*
382 *Greystone Estates Residents Association for the 3-Acre stormwater permit and to name*
383 *Town Manager Josh Arneson as the duly authorized representative to sign the*
384 *agreement. Hill seconded.*

385 *Roll Call Vote:*

386 *Hill, Rabideau, Sander, Wood in favor. Filkins recused. Motion approved.*

387

388

389 **Consideration of signing the Notice of Intent for the Greystone Estates Residents**
390 **Association for the 3-Acre stormwater permit**

391 Timestamp: 2:30

392

393 *Sander move to authorize Town Manager Josh Arneson to sign the Notice of Intent for*
394 *the Greystone Estates Residents Association for the 3-Acre stormwater permit on behalf*

395 *of the Town. Hill seconded.*

396 *Roll Call Vote:*

397 *Hill, Rabideau, Sander, Wood in favor. Filkins recused. Motion approved.*

398

399 Wood summarized that the Selectboard has the right to vote on this without the public
400 seeing it first, but it now becomes public document.

401

402

403 **Consideration of accepting an easement for the Tilden Ave., Bridge St., and**
404 **Thompson Rd. waterline project**

405 Timestamp: 2:37

406 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3p_25-06-](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3p_25-06-01_Easement_Deed_from_Myott_to_Town_-_393_Cochran_Rd.pdf)
407 [01_Easement_Deed_from_Myott_to_Town_-_393_Cochran_Rd.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3p_25-06-01_Easement_Deed_from_Myott_to_Town_-_393_Cochran_Rd.pdf)

408

409 *Hill moved to accept the easement for the Tilden Ave., Bridge St., and Cochran Rd.*
410 *waterline replacement project as presented. Sander seconded.*

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

412

413

414 **Consideration of approving the Certificate of Highway Mileage**

415 Timestamp: 2:38

416 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3q_MileageC](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3q_MileageCertificate_RICHMOND_2026_-_filled_out_-_not_signed.pdf)
417 [ertificate_RICHMOND_2026_-_filled_out_-_not_signed.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3q_MileageCertificate_RICHMOND_2026_-_filled_out_-_not_signed.pdf)

418

419 Arneson reviewed that this is an annual form that the State has every Town sign to certify
420 the number of highway miles and ties back to some grants.

421

422 *Hill moved to approve the Certificate of Highway Mileage. Filkins seconded.*

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

424

425

426 **Consideration of approving the Certificate of No Appeal or Suit Pending for the**
427 **2025 grand list**

428 Timestamp: 2:40

429 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3r_Certificat](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3r_Certificate_no_appeal_or_suit_pending_-_Grand_List.pdf)
430 [_no_appeal_or_suit_pending_-_Grand_List.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3r_Certificate_no_appeal_or_suit_pending_-_Grand_List.pdf)

431

432 *Sander moved to certify that there are no appeals or suits pending related to the April 1,*
433 *2025 Grand List. Rabideau seconded.*

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

435

436

437 **Update on VOSHA visit and Citation and Notification of Penalty**

438 Timestamp: 2:41

439

440 Arneson reviewed the citations and how they can work with Project WorkSAFE to
441 reduce the fines by half. Most of the citations were taken care of right away and are
442 already fixed. Option one is a reduction by 30% if you take care of things quickly.
443 Option two is, if you take care of things quickly and agree to work with WorkSAFE, it
444 gets down to 50%. Arneson explained the issues with the wash-station cartridges so now
445 they are hard plumbed. Arneson summarized how Water/Wastewater did not conduct
446 confined space work in the past so they have corrected a few things in their process.
447 Wood stated that Project WorkSAFE's goal is to get you compliant and not get you fined.
448 Rabideau stated it will help improve the insurance rating and it's for the benefit of the
449 employees who work in those environments. Arneson confirmed that after the penalty
450 reduction, Water/Wastewater will pay \$7094, Fire \$199, and Highway \$199.

451

452

453 **Review of Richmond Rescue FY26 Quarter 2 Report**

454 Timestamp: 2:52

455 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3t_Richmond
456 [Rescue Quarterly Report FY26_Q2.pdf](#)

457

458 Arneson reviewed the info in the packet. The response times are phenomenal, and all the
459 work they do for the Town is much appreciated.

460

461

462 **Consideration of moving the second meeting in February to Tuesday, February 17,** 463 **2026 due to the Presidents' Day holiday on Monday, February 16, 2026**

464 Timestamp: 2:53

465

466 *Sander moved to hold the second meeting in February on Tuesday, February 17, 2026*
467 *due to the Presidents' Day holiday on Monday, February 16, 2026. Hill Sander.*
468 *Roll Call Vote: Filkins, Hill, Rabideau, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*

469

470

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

472

473 **Minutes:**

474

475 *Sander moved to approve the minutes of January 20, 2026. Filkins seconded.*
476 *Roll Call Vote: Filkins, Hill, Rabideau, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*

477

478 *Sander moved to approve the minutes of January 21, 2026. Rabideau seconded*
479 *Roll Call Vote:*

480 *Filkins, Hill, Rabideau, Sander in favor. Wood abstains. Motion approved.*

481

482 **Purchase Orders:**

483

484 *Sander moved to amend purchase order number 5251 to Pike Industries for FY26 paving*
485 *to \$484,977.60 to account for the grant funding received to pave Jericho Rd. Hill*
486 *seconded.*

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

488

489 *Sander moved to approve purchase order number 5364 to the VLCT Property and*
490 *Casualty Intermunicipal Fund for Town insurance coverage for the second half of FY26*
491 *for the Town's portion of the coverage which totals \$73,000.00. Hill seconded.*

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

493

494 **Warrants:**

495

496 *Sander moved to approve the warrants from the February 2, 2026 meeting. Hill*
497 *seconded.*

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

499

500

501 **Next Meeting Agenda**

502 -Southview update

503 -Town Plan hearing

504 -Traffic Ordinance hearing

505 -Resolution

506 -FY25 Audit

507 -Police station upgrades

508

509

510 **Adjourn**

511

512 *Rabideau moved to adjourn. Filkins seconded.*

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

514

515 **Meeting adjourned at: 10:13 PM**

516

517 **Chat file from Zoom:**

518 00:14:38 Jean Haskin: When my kids were young there was no preK program
519 funded by the school budget. Parents should pay for preK.

520 00:45:32 Jean Haskin: I agree it should be tabled at town meeting

521 00:45:57 Jared D Katz LCMHC: I also believe it should be tabled.

522 00:51:16 Jared D Katz LCMHC: I believe we've heard that a lot of people on
523 this zoom feel uncomfortable (unsafe) being part of a discussion of this measure at town

524 meeting.

525 00:52:01 Katie's iPhone (2): We should not have to show up in person and
526 “fight” for this. That has proven dangerous in other communities.

527 00:52:12 Ian Bender: Reacted to "We should not have t..." with 👍

528 00:55:54 Chelsye Brooks: Reacted to "We should not have t..." with 👍

529 00:58:17 Stefani Hartsfield: I'm always at town meeting day. I just don't think it
530 can be an informed discussion there.

531 00:58:52 Jean Haskin: Reacted to "We should not have t..." with 👍

532 00:59:10 Jean Haskin: Reacted to "I believe we've hear..." with 👍

533 01:03:00 Bonny Steuer (she/her): To be clear - Criticism of the Israeli
534 Government and their actions is not antisemitic. The document up for discussion is not
535 targeting Jewish people, however I appreciate the vulnerable and difficult emotions this
536 conversation brings up. If you would like to learn more about what is happening in Gaza
537 and the West Bank please consider attending the movie being shown at the library on Feb
538 22 from 4-6 pm with moderated panel discussion to follow. More info to come in Front
539 Porch Forum.

540 01:05:12 Jean Haskin: Good job Clint

541 01:05:26 Stefani Hartsfield: Reacted to "Good job Clint" with 👍

542 01:05:28 brendanfilkins: Replying to "To be clear - Critic..."
543 Im grateful someone read the document. This is strictly a statement against a regime and
544 not a religion or group of people

545 01:06:19 Chelsye Brooks: That troubles me. If I cannot speak about this at a
546 meeting where the Selectboard has just said they want to encourage public discussion...
547 it doesn't bode well for people showing up to town meeting, or their chances of being
548 heard.

549 01:07:06 Chelsye Brooks: Reacted to "I'm always at town m..." with 🙏

550 01:07:14 Ian Bender: Reacted to "That troubles me. If..." with 👍

551 01:07:35 Jean Haskin: Reacted to "That troubles me. If..." with 👍

552 01:09:24 Ian Bender: Replying to "To be clear - Critic..."
553 According to the sponsor of this petition all Israelis are "for war" and are accountable..
554 See this being communicated at the last meeting.

555 01:09:26 Patty Brushett: Thank you Caitlin

556 01:09:33 Ian Bender: Replying to "To be clear - Critic..."
557 https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ATsuOUuURImemDFZMKMnaEJqrL6TGiQC/view?usp=drive_link
558 p=drive_link

559 01:21:32 Katie's iPhone (2): Replying to "To be clear - Critic..."
560 We've read it, many times. I agree that the resolution does not literally say “all Jews are
561 responsible” but it doesn't need to say that, unfortunately. The outcome is the same.
562 Being anti-Israel is not antisemitic, but that difference isn't understood by many and
563 making Jewish neighbors (who are also not in support of Israel!) feel afraid shouldn't be
564 anyone's goal.

565 01:22:49 Katie's iPhone (2): Reacted to "That troubles me. If..." with 👍

566 01:24:22 Alexis : Replying to "To be clear - Critic..."
567 So we can't speak out about Israel because some people don't understand the difference
568 between Israel and the Jewish people? That seems to be what you are saying.

569 01:32:38 Aubrey Carpenter: Replying to "To be clear - Critic..."
570 I am most disturbed by the fact that we have local neighbors who feel isolated and unsafe
571 or at risk of decreasing safety by the inadvertent outcome of a well-intentioned initiative
572 in opposition of a regime. I'm asking because I genuinely don't know, do we have any
573 existing local forums in place to help neighbors build perspective and hold conversations
574 in safe spaces? I agree with one of the earlier commentor's questions that we have to be
575 ready to have conversations to do it safely and well. It's unfortunate that the process
576 unfolded in the way it did and I would love to know where reparative conversations or
577 proactive discussions about these themes can happen so that the first time we're bumping
578 into conversations with each other is not at a selectboard meeting.

579 01:39:43 Connie van Eeghen, she/her: Thank you, Chief Cohen

580 01:43:23 Bonny Steuer (she/her): Replying to "To be clear - Critic..."
581 Please come to the film and discussion! There will be a Palestinian person very well
582 informed with the situation and a representative (who is a Richmond resident) from
583 Jewish Voices for Peace. Conversation will be moderated by Fran Stoddard. The aim is to
584 create that safe space for discussion.

585 01:43:56 Connie van Eeghen, she/her: Reacted to "Please come to the f..." with 👍

586 01:48:27 Patty Brushett: Thank you

587 01:50:27 Aubrey Carpenter: Replying to "To be clear - Critic..."
588 Thank you Bonny!

589 01:51:37 Bonny Steuer (she/her): I think you should read the resolution for
590 those here and and for the recording.

591 01:57:40 Bonny Steuer (she/her): Reacted to "I think you should r..." with 👍

592 01:57:56 Bonny Steuer (she/her): Absolutely

593 02:02:40 Bonny Steuer (she/her): Would Caitlin please identify her employer?

594 02:03:22 Bonny Steuer (she/her): It was Chris Granda

595 02:13:35 Chelsye Brooks: Can we amend the titles of warnings on Seven
596 Days?

597 02:19:03 Chelsye Brooks: Thanks.

598 02:45:42 Chelsye Brooks: Is this agreement going to be available for public
599 review?

600 02:56:29 Chelsye Brooks: What were the fines for?

601 02:58:18 Chelsye Brooks: 7000 water sewer, 200 fire, 200 highway - where
602 are the other \$7000 in fines?

603 03:00:00 Chelsye Brooks: I thought Josh said \$14,000? Or has that already
604 been reduced.