1	Town of Richmond
2	Selectboard Meeting
3	Minutes of August 19, 2024
4	
5 6	Members Present: Adam Wood, David Sander, Jay Furr, Lisa Miller
7 8	Absent: None
9 10 11	<b>Staff Present:</b> Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town Manager; Linda Parent, Town Clerk; Linn Caroleo, Administrative Assistant.
12 13 14 15 16	<b>Others Present:</b> Meeting was recorded by MMCTV, Erin Wagg, Caitlin Littlefield, Amy Wardwell, Brian Daub, Cathy Aikman, Connie van Eeghen, Danny Peet, David Reisman, Eric Berliner, Erin Farr, Gary Bressor, Jacqueline Daub, Kath Burns, Mary Houle, Marybeth, Alison Aiken, Mary Peet, Pete O'Neil, Fran Thomas, Stefanie Hartsfield, mbb (?), Dave Thomas, Ash and Kate Kreider, Jeff Forward
17 18	Absent: Bard Hill
19	Absent. Data min
20	MMCTV Video: https://youtu.be/3APxzax41PU?si=VLVEPA-4n2dJKqN4
20	
22	Call to Order: 7:01 pm
23	
24	Welcome by: Sander
25	Wercome by: Sander
25 26	Public Comment: Mary Houle gave praise to Craig Cowles and Pete Gosselin for the
20 27	road repairs that were done on Cochran Road after the last flood. She mentioned that all
27 28	the November ballots are going to be mailed individually to registered active voters direct
28 29	from the state of Vermont, so do not throw away your ballots. You will not get a new one.
	Complete your ballot as soon as you get it and then bring it in and drop it in the town
30 21	
31	Dropbox.
32 33 34	Additions or Deletions to Agenda: None
34 35 36	Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present
37	Consideration of appointing a new Board Secretary
38	Timestamp: 0:02
39 40 41	People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson
42	Linn was hired 2 weeks ago and will take over the Selectboard minutes and the Water
42 43 44	and Sewer Commission minutes.
44 45	Furr moved to appoint Linn Caroleo as the Selectboard Secretary. Wood seconded.
45 46	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
40 47	Kon Can voie. Fart, miner, sander, wood in javor. monon approved.
47 48	
40 49	Discussion of a shade tree preservation plan
-+-0	Discussion of a share the preservation plan

<ul> <li>Timestamp: 0:05</li> <li>https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/08/3b1_VT_tree</li> <li>warden_and_tree_statues.pdf</li> <li>https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/08/3b2_VLCT_tree</li> <li>https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/08/3b3_VLCT_tree</li> <li>https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/08/3b3_V</li></ul>
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<ul> <li>warden_and_tree_statues.pdf</li> <li>https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/08/3b2_VLCT_i</li> <li>ree_law_roles_and_responsibilities.pdf</li> <li>https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/08/3b3_VLCT_i</li> <li>ree_law_FAQs.pdf</li> <li>People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Littlefield, Thomas, Houle,</li> <li>Miller</li> <li>Littlefield explained that a potential hazard exists by the two maple trees out behind the</li> <li>town offices and near the post office, they should probably come down soon. Bark and</li> <li>limbs are shedding and based on Mary's and her assessment it is unlikely those trees are</li> <li>going to get any bigger or healthier, due to the enormously compacted soil and their</li> <li>location. Because they are hazard trees we don't need to hold a public hearing regarding</li> <li>those removals. They are invasive Norway Maple trees that we should not be promoting,</li> <li>rather plant sugar maples which is native to Vermont.</li> </ul>
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70
71 Littlefield continued that Acer Tree Service (Jeff) participated in removals and pruning
that went on around Town parks and near the round church. During Acer tree services
73 carrying out that work, they identified that the tree that's between the round Church and
the Ackley property, which is also a Norway maple, has a fungus that feeds on live trees.
75 The Selectboard received a packet of a free risk assessment that Acer conducted and
76 where the branches on that tree are enumerated along with a risk categorization, because
this creates a hazard which should be monitored and pruned.
78 Thomas chimed in stating that the Historical Society is concerned about the tree's
79 possible damage it could cause by a falling branch breaking original windowpanes in the
80 church. She feels the Town should commit to having a schedule in place where they
81 monitor trees around the Town. Littlefield commented that having the town commit to
that does interact with the notion of a "shade tree preservation plan" and the
83 responsibility that she as the tree warden carries.
84 Houle offered to contact Branch out Burlington to ask them for two sugar maples that car
be planted around the round church in anticipation of the Norway Maple's future
86 removal.
87 Miller asked how such risk assessments were generated. Littlefield replied that they were
88 done when requested and carried a total cost of \$200.
89 Littlefield laid out what a Shade Tree Preservation Plan would entail, which is optional
90 for a town. It is designed to help guide the town in managing removals, plantings,
91 maintenance, and monitoring of trees on Town property and rights of way. She worries
92 such a plan would hamper decisions around trees and tree removal in the future.
93 Miller asked that Littlefield draft a 4-page plan for the Selectboard to consider regarding
94 planting of future trees in Richmond.
95 OC Undets on flood recovery and flood related discussions
96 Update on flood recovery and flood related discussions 97 Timestamp: 0:27
97 Timestamp: 0:27 98

- 99 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Miller, LaBounty
- 100
- 101 Arneson thanked the highway department for their continued efforts on getting the roads
- back together. He is keeping a running list of areas that still need more attention, if you
- 103 have roadways or areas that still need attention, send that to him.
- 104 Arneson continued that in terms of a disaster declaration from the July 2024 flood, the
- state sent a declaration request in to the president. It has been a couple of weeks, but all
- the state officials are confident that it will be declared, and Chittenden County will be
- included for both public assistance and individual assistance. That cannot be guaranteeduntil the President signs it.
- 109 There are 20 locations under consideration for the Emergency Watershed Protection
- 110 Program (EWP), which will be visited later this month. We also have 21 properties
- currently interested in the FEMA elevation or buyout programs. As a reminder to
- 112 property owners, the emergency order that was passed two weeks ago by the Select Board
- in regard to work in streams, you do not need approvals from the town until the end of that order which is the end of December but you do still need approval to work in the
- that order, which is the end of December, but you do still need approval to work in the stream from the state. So, make sure anybody who is planning on any stream work that
- 116 you do reach out and get your proper state permits.
- 117 Sander wanted to know if the rumor that FEMA is out of money was true? To which
- 118 Arneson explained that FEMA is not obligating funds to any non-emergency response
- 119 measures. But Richmond will continue to submit projects. When FEMA releases more
- 120 funds, they will eventually send us funds. But it does put a bit of a pause on some of the
- 121 Town's projects, and when we will receive money.
- 122 LaBounty asked that Arneson provide a list of buyouts vs elevation projects on a map.
- Since upkeep of buyout properties will fall to the Town once the buyout is complete.
- 125

## Discussion flood related expenses, projected cash flow, and potential purchase of a Certificate of Deposit

- 128 Timestamp: 0:36
- 129
- https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.richmondvt.
   gov%2Ffileadmin%2Ffiles%2FSelectboard%2FMeetings%2F2024%2F08%2F3d\_Gener
   al\_Checking\_Reserves\_08-15-24.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK
- 133
- 134 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, LaBounty
- 135
- Arneson stated that he has looked at the cash flow. We added in \$132,000 expense for the chassis
- for a fire truck, which is now due in FY 25. We changed the estimated cost of the 2024 flood
- from 2 million to 1.5 million as per Pete Gosselin; 1.5 million includes the break on Hillview
- 139 Road, which should eventually become a bridge. We did add in a reimbursement from FEMA for
- 140 the 2023 storm. We have \$231,000 scheduled to come to the town within the next four to six
- 141 weeks. Projecting now to have nearly \$600,000 by the end of this fiscal year.
- 142 LaBounty wanted to know when the auditors were coming to review our books and what sort of
- 143 process did they use to review the Town's financials? Arneson stated they are due to be here the
- 144 first week of Sept. Bona is the one preparing the financials for the audit.
- 145

## 146 Consideration of approving the Subrecipient Agreement with the State of Vermont

147 for reimbursement of expenses related to the July 2023 flooding.

148	Timestamp: 0:47
149	
150	https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/08/3e Richmon
151	d 02140-84720-123 Agreement.pdf
152	
153	People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson
154	
155	Arneson provided some background right now, from the 2023 storm, we have \$304,000
156	in total, reimbursable costs, of that \$231,000 will come back to the town, that's obligated.
157	We have an allocation for old Jericho Road, which they're considering as a recreational
158	path, which they've obligated that at a project cost of \$182,000 of which we would get
159	\$136,000. And water and sewer are going to get back about \$30,000 for repairs to the
160	sewer line underneath the bridge from the last storm.
161	sewer mie underneauf the bridge from the fast storm.
162	Furr moved to approve the Subrecipient Agreement with the State of Vermont for
162	reimbursement of expenses related to the July 2023 flooding and to appoint Town
164	Manager Josh Arneson as the Designated Representative. Miller seconded.
165	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
166	
167	
168	Consideration of approval of submitting an application for the Municipal Energy
169	<b>Resilience Program (MERP) for energy efficiency improvements to the Town</b>
170	Center
171	Timestamp: 0:51
172	
173	https://bgs.vermont.gov/municipal-energy-resilience-program
174	
175	People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Forward, Wood, LaBounty,
176	Miller, Houle
177	
178	Forward explained we can apply for up to \$500,000 for energy efficiency and renewable
179	energy work on this building. As a first step we needed to get an energy audit, which we
180	did. The Regional Planning Commission recommends that we approve, we authorize the
181	town manager to apply for this grant because there is no deadline, but one may be placed
182	on us suddenly to qualify for this grant. LaBounty believes the Town Center Committee
183	should vote on this before submitting a grant like this. There is no official deadline for
184	this. Houle feels similarly that the Town Center Committee should be involved. We are
185	still waiting for the official report and results from the energy audit.
186	
187	Wood moved to authorize the Town Manager to apply for up to \$500,000 in MERP
188	implementation grant funds for any recommended measure in the assessment report,
189	pending review from Town Center and library committees. Furr seconded.
190	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
191	
192	Update on forming long term recovery group to provide assistance and outreach to
193	private property owners with flood damage.
194	Timestamp: 1:15
195	1
196	People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Miller
197	

198 199 200	Arneson said this would not be a town committee, coming from a representative from FEMA interested in finding residents in Richmond who might want to help form such a group. Other towns (Barre was given as an example) have created such long-term groups and have been such as a
201	and have been successful. This group would work with FEMA to find grants that help
202	homeowners with long-term. Miller said she tried to get involved in this, but it was a
203	larger time-commitment than she was able to do. This group would connect people with
204	more assets than the Town is able to find. Arneson is looking for volunteers.
205	
206	
207	Discussion of a request to develop a Town owned strip of land off Mary Dr. to rural
208	road standards, possible executive session
209	Timestamp: 1:19
210	
211	https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/08/3h1_To_the_
212	Town_of_Richmond_Select_board.pdf
213	
214	https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/08/3h2_1109
215	_PL1_Boundary_PlatSigned.pdf
216	
217	https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/08/3h3_town_ap
218	<u>proval.pdf</u>
219	
220	https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/08/3h4_DRB_de
221	<u>cission_10-22-12.pdf</u>
222	
223	https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/08/3h5_Peet_De
224	<u>ed_1993.pdf</u>
225	
226	People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Furr, Van Egan, Peet, Houle
227	
228	Van Eeghen suggested we create a road association using VT state statutes to maintain a
229	private road. Including Peet in such a road association would be important. She feels all
230	the neighbors in this area need more time to figure out shared access and road
231	maintenance. Furr stated that Hill has created an 8 option list regarding this issue. What
232	van Eeghen stated was related to option 5 on Hill's list. Further discussion on this is
233	paused until Peet and van Eeghen and the other neighbors have had time to discuss this.
234	Peet feels that a road association is for this road and that a need exists to make it an
235	official rural road. An update is expected by the October 7, 2024 meeting. Houle stated
236	that Peet asking his attorney to contact the Town's attorney is unethical.
237	
238	Consideration of reducing the number of seats on the Trails Committee
239	Timestamp: 1:29
240	
241	
242	People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Aiken
243	
244	Aiken explained that five years ago, there was a lot of interest in town members being on
245	the trails committee and the number of committee members was expanded to 14. But
246	since then, people have left, and we now only have eight members, which makes it hard
247	to meet a quorum and get much done, therefore it would be great if we could decrease the

248 249 250	numbers to nine. That would allow us one empty seat now, and we would then try to recruit and fill that one open spot.
250 251 252	Wood moved to set the number of members on the Trails Committee at nine. Miller seconded.
253 254	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
255 256	Consideration of approving an application for a home buyout as part of the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Progrm
257 258	Timestamp: 1:31
259 260	People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Miller, Furr, LaBounty
261 262 263 264 265 266	Miller asked if it was the town or the homeowner that was applying for the buyout, and it's the Town on behalf of the homeowner. Furr wanted to know if properties that are bought out, if those lots had to be kept as green spaces forever. LaBounty stated that you are permitted to make such an area into a park or have an ice rink, etc. But no commercial development.
267 268	Furr move to apply for the property buyout program for 40 Esplanade St. Wood seconded.
268 269 270 271	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
272 273 274	<b>Review of draft warning for special Town Meeting</b> Timestamp: 1:36
274 275 276 277	https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/08/3k1_ELECTI ON_SPECIAL_MTG_WARNING_FALL_2024_DRAFT.pdf
278 279 280	https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/08/3k2_Special_ Projects_Reserve_FundDRAFT.pdf
280 281 282	People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Furr, LaBounty, Wood, Houle
283 284	Arneson elaborated: we have 3 options - Option 1: should the voters of Richmond adopt all budget articles by Australian Ballot?
285 286 287	Option 2: shall voters vote on all public questions by Australian ballot?
288 289 290	Option 3: Shall the voters establish a special projects reserve fund and authorize the selectboard to transfer funds not to exceed \$993,021.00?
291 292 293	Does the Selectboard want to put special appropriation articles on Australian ballot? Once we put things to Australian ballot, it does limit people's ability to make amendments.
294 295 296	LaBounty stated that she was the one who put Australian ballot for the budget in front of the voters, and she likes the idea of the Australian ballot budget, item 1. Wood wonders if the wording needs to be changed before the board takes a vote. Arneson
297	explained that the auditors and lawyers disagree on the rules around the use of these

6

298 299 300 301 302 303	monies. Furr stated that voters should have a chance to vote confidentially regarding the expenditures of charitable funds. Social services appropriation is charitable funds or non-profits, which is a definition not everyone may know, LaBounty and Houle agreed. Australian Ballot indicates paper/private ballot.
304 305 306	<b>Discussion of the Vermont 250th Anniversary Resolution</b> Timestamp: 1:54
307 308 309	https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/08/31_250_anniv ersary_letter_and_draft_resolution.pdf
310 311	People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Miller, Wood
312 313 314	Miller explained that she doesn't see any real glory in passing this resolution on behalf of our town. Wood doesn't feel that this is at the forefront for people currently.
315 316	Consideration of accepting a loan from the Vermont Bond Bank for Wastewater Treatment Facility Study 20-year study
317 318	Timestamp: 1:57
319 320 321 322	https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/08/3m_RF1- 362-1.1_Richmond_Loan_Agreement_Signed_by_VBB.pdf
323 324	People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Wood
325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343	Sander elaborated: The Water and Sewer Commission does not have bonding authority that falls back on the town, the town of Richmond, which is us, so this would be accepting the loan. Note: the taxpayers would not be on the hook for paying this back. It would be the responsibility of the water and sewer users, the rate payers, to pay this back. The water and sewer department has a \$154,000 loan from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, CWSRF through the Vermont bond bank for the 20-year wastewater treatment facility study. Recently, the town asked for the loan to be increased to include funds for the following: funding assistance, \$8700: sewer use ordinance, review, and recommendations \$26,000; public outreach \$42,000 - for a total of \$76,700. The bond bank has prepared paperwork which amends the total loan amount to \$230,700, which includes the original \$154,000 plus the additional \$76,700. 50% of the principal will be forgiven and there is not interest on the loan.
344	Consideration of approving an engineer for final design for two locations in the
345	Emergency Watershed Protection Program
346 347	Timestamp: 2:02
	7

348	https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/08/3n_New_Eng
349	<u>land_Consultingfull_bid.pdf</u>
350	
351	https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/08/3n_TCE
352	_full_bid.pdf
353	
354 355	People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, LaBounty
356	Arneson elaborated that one bid was far above the figure of \$47,655 that the EWP
357	program would cover for engineering costs. We did receive a bid from New England
358	Consulting Engineers, which was \$22,000 far under the total amount. To give a recap,
359	these are grant programs the town applies for on behalf of private homeowners.
360	Typically, there is a 25% match in the private homeowners. In this instance, the entire
361	engineering and construction cost will be covered by the grant program. I will have an
362	agreement in place with the homeowners, that if there is anything that goes over the
363	amount of the approved money and it is not approved as an extension, then that is on the
364	private homeowner to pay, not the town. LaBounty stated that a 2% admin fee could be
365	applicable for these EWP grants. LaBounty questioned if the EWP program would be
366	applicable for Huntington River for EWP? Arneson said that site visits have not yet
367	occurred for the EWP program since the latest flood. If a homeowner is applying for
368	EWP program presently from the July 2024 flood, there is a 25% portion that the
369	homeowner would be responsible for. Wood added that many homeowners are not aware
370	that this program applies to them because they do not live in the flood plain, so getting
371	the word out to those homeowners is good.
372	
373	Miller moved to enter into an agreement with New England Consulting Engineers for
374	design work on two flood mitigation projects funded by the Emergency Watershed
375	Protection Program at a cost not to exceed \$22,000. Wood seconded.
376	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
377	
378	Approval of Minutes, Purchase Orders, Warrants
379	Timestamp: 2:13
380	F·F
381	Minutes:
382	
383	Furr moved to approve the Minutes of 8/5/24 as presented. Wood seconded.
384	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
385	
386	Furr moved to approve the Minutes of 8/9/24 as amended. Miller seconded.
387	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
388	
389	
390	Motions for Purchase Orders:
391	
392	Miller moved to amend PO# 4622 to Various Vendors for all road projects including gravel
393	plan to \$132,691.12. Wood seconded.
394	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
395	
396	Wood moved to approve PO# 4947 to Stromme Excavating for Various equipment and

397 398	labor for Stage Road and Jones Mill Road repairs, not to exceed \$150,000.00. Furr seconded.
399	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
400 401	Wood moved to approve PO# 4950 to Hinesburg Sand and Gravel for miscellaneous
402	plant mix and gravel for road repairs, not to exceed \$70,000.00. Miller seconded.
403	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
404	
405	Miller moved to approve PO# 5022 to Casella Waste Systems for debris removal for
406	2024 flood, not to exceed \$10,000.00. Wood seconded.
407	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
408	
409	Miller moved to approve PO# 5023 to Mow N Maintain Property Maintenance LLC for
410	FY 25 Grounds Maintenance July-October not to exceed \$24,000.00. Wood seconded.
411	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
412	
413	Wood moved to amend PO# 4938 to McCullough Crushing Inc for Misc rock and gravel
	for road repairs to \$32,556.00. Miller seconded.
415	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
416	
417	Miller moved to amend PO# 4941 to Richard Cowles, LLC for Misc sized blast rock for
418	road repairs to \$111,156.00. Wood seconded.
419	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
420	
421	Warrants:
422	
423	Miller moved to approve the Warrants as presented. Wood seconded.
424	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
425	
426	Next Meeting Agenda
427	Timestamp: 2:24
428	
429	Special town meeting warning
430	Planning will have some draft amendments (30 min presentation)
431	Update on Cochran Road scoping and corridor study
432	Flood and financial update
433	MMCTV's recommendation regarding better microphones for the third floor
434	conference room
435	Mary Drive comes back in Oct.
436	
437	Out of Executive Session: Update on status of unfair labor practice charge
438	Timestamp: 2:26
439	
440	Furr moved to find that premature public knowledge about pending or probable civil
441	litigation to which the public body is or may be a party would cause the Town or person
442	to suffer a substantial disadvantage. Wood seconded.
443	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
444	
445	

446	Furr moved that we enter executive session for discuss an unfair labor practice charge
447	under the provisions of 1 VSA 313 (a)(1)(e) and to invite Town Manager Josh Arneson
448	into the executive session. Wood seconded.
449	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
450	
451	
452	Adjourn
453	
454	Furr moved to adjourn. Wood seconded.
455	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
456	
457	Meeting adjourned at: 9:45 pm
458	
459	Chat file from Zoom: None
460	