

1 **Town of Richmond**  
2 **Selectboard Meeting**  
3 **Minutes of February 3, 2025**  
4

5 **Members Present:** Bard Hill, David Sander, Jay Furr, Lisa Miller  
6

7 **Absent:** Adam Wood  
8

9 **Staff Present:** Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town  
10 Manager; Linda Parent, Town Clerk; Tyler Machia, Zoning Administrator; Finance  
11 Director Connie Bona.  
12

13 **Others Present:** MMCTV Erin Wagg, RHR Smith & Company Heather Hunter and  
14 Samantha Ruggles, Kevin Kittinger, Eagle Scout Michael Denis, Chair of the DRB David  
15 Sunshine, Trevor Brooks, Catamount Outdoor John Atkinson, June Heston, Bryton  
16 Moeller, Caitlin Filkins, Connie van Eeghen, Matt Parisi, Nick, Andrew Bessette, Kristen  
17 Werner, Noa, Chelsye's iPhone, Douglas Thompson, Brendan Filkins, Paige Kaleita,  
18 Mary Harrison, Jack Linn.  
19

20 **MMCTV Video:** Recorded by MMCTV by Erin Wagg  
21 [https://youtu.be/pmaPc\\_g05nQ?si=UEiLg\\_MnDasnyaVq](https://youtu.be/pmaPc_g05nQ?si=UEiLg_MnDasnyaVq)  
22

23 **Call to Order:** 7:00 pm  
24

25 **Welcome by:** Sander  
26

27 **Public Comment:** None  
28

29 **Additions or Deletions to Agenda:** None  
30

31 **Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present**  
32

33 **Reminder of public hearing on Monday, February 10, 2025, at 7pm for the Cochran**  
34 **Rd. Corridor and Scoping Study exploring traffic calming and bicycle & pedestrian**  
35 **usage on Cochran Rd.**

36 Timestamp: 0:00  
37

38 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3a\\_Link\\_to](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3a_Link_to_Cochran_Rd._Corridor_Study_Meeting_Information.pdf)  
39 [Cochran Rd. Corridor Study Meeting Information.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3a_Link_to_Cochran_Rd._Corridor_Study_Meeting_Information.pdf)  
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41 People who participated in discussion: Sander  
42

43 Sander reminded everyone that the meeting is being held in the Town Offices.  
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45

46 **Reminder of Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, and informational meetings**  
47 **on Saturday, February 8, 2025, at 10 AM and Monday, February 24, 2025 at 7 PM**

48 Timestamp: 0:01  
49

50 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3b Links to](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3b_Links_to)  
51 [Informational Meetings and Town Meeting.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3b_Links_to)

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53 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson

54  
55 Sander reminded everyone of these informational meetings. Arneson added that the  
56 budgets will also be discussed.

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59 **Presentation of the FY24 Audit**

60 Timestamp: 0:01

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62 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3c1 Richmo](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3c1_Richmo)  
63 [nd CTG-SAS 114 Final 24.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3c1_Richmo)

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65 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3c2 Richmo](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3c2_Richmo)  
66 [nd ML24 Final.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3c2_Richmo)

67  
68 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3c3 Richmo](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3c3_Richmo)  
69 [nd FS24 Final.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3c3_Richmo)

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72 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Hunter, Ruggles, Bona, Hill,  
73 Miller

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75 Hunter stated that they issued an unmodified or “Clean Opinion” of the Town of  
76 Richmond financials for FY24, which is the highest option available, so she  
77 congratulated the Town. She recommended reading the management discussion and  
78 analysis on page 5, as a synopsis of the report. She described that it’s important to focus  
79 on Unrestricted funds, which is what the Town can spend as cash, because Restricted  
80 funds have strings attached. She went in depth regarding her audit, a noteworthy finding  
81 was that Sewer is not covering its operating expenses, being in the hole around \$263,000.  
82 To which Hill and Arneson mentioned repairs that have been done and the flooding  
83 events in 2024 and the fact that Water and Sewer fall under the Water and Sewer  
84 Commission and not the Selectboard. Overall, the General fund debts are being paid off  
85 and new debts are not being incurred. Furr asked “we have been borrowing from  
86 ourselves, from some of the Reserve funds, and that’s money we are committed to paying  
87 back, is that reflected in this audit?” To which Arneson replied that it would be in next  
88 year’s audit.

89 There was an overall surplus of just under \$300,000, so the Town now has \$1.2 million to  
90 carry forward into the future. Arneson corrected that due to the July 2024 flood there  
91 were \$2 million in damages, so there is no money to carry forward and use to reduce the  
92 tax increases. Ruggles added that \$500,000 from the Highway Dept was used to reduce  
93 tax increases previously. Hunter stated that their management letter comments are  
94 considered the best practices and of which there were two comments; one was related to  
95 stale checks older than 6 months and some capital asset valuations were not accurate and  
96 needed to be reviewed, these two things could streamline things for the Town. Hill  
97 suggested adding these comments to a future Agenda. Bona mentioned that some Fire  
98 Dept employees fail to cash their checks, which creates some of the stale checks, in  
99 addition to tax refunds that are not cashed by some homeowners. Ruggles added that

100 Bona is amazingly easy to work with and “runs a tight ship” in terms of the Town’s  
101 financials. Miller extended a thank you to both auditors and Bona.

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103

#### 104 **Review of Second Quarter FY25 Financials**

105 Timestamp: 0:34

106

107 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d1\\_FY25\\_Q](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d1_FY25_Q)  
108 [TR 2 Budget Status General.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d1_FY25_Q)

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110 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d2\\_FY25\\_Q](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d2_FY25_Q)  
111 [TR 2 Budget Status Highway.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d2_FY25_Q)

112

113 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d3\\_FY25\\_Q](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d3_FY25_Q)  
114 [TR 2 General Fund Financials 12-31-24.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d3_FY25_Q)

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116 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d4\\_FY25\\_Q](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d4_FY25_Q)  
117 [TR 2 Backup 1 Delinquent Tax Report.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d4_FY25_Q)

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119 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d5\\_FY25\\_Q](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d5_FY25_Q)  
120 [TR 2 Backup 2 Education Taxes.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d5_FY25_Q)

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122 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d6\\_FY25\\_Q](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d6_FY25_Q)  
123 [TR 2 Backup 3 General Ledger Tax Revenue.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d6_FY25_Q)

124

125 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d7\\_FY25\\_Q](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d7_FY25_Q)  
126 [TR 2 Backup 4 Cash Receipts Report.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d7_FY25_Q)

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128 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d8\\_FY25\\_Q](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d8_FY25_Q)  
129 [TR 2 Backup 5 Tax Year Status Report.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3d8_FY25_Q)

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132 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Bona, Hill, Furr

133

134 Arneson explained in terms of the General fund (which is all the departments except for  
135 Highway) that Police salaries are below budget. Some contract service invoices have not  
136 yet been received, but we're still under budget for the department, even with those still  
137 needing to come in. ARPA funds were transferred into the General fund in August and  
138 then transferred out to the Special Project Reserve fund in November. We transferred in  
139 just under \$1 million in August, and then about \$750,000 went back out of the General  
140 fund into the Special Products Reserve fund. The Fire Department is over budget  
141 regarding salaries. The Highway Department is about where it expects to be even with  
142 extra plowing that has been happening recently.

143

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#### 145 **Announcement of the placement of the Eagle Scout Project: Flag Deposit Box at the** 146 **Town Center and consideration of donating excess project funds**

147 Timestamp: 0:37

148

149 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3e\\_Flag\\_Deposit\\_Box.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3e_Flag_Deposit_Box.pdf)

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153 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Denis, Parent

154

155 Denis dropped off the Flag box last week, it is placed outside the Zoning Office. He has  
156 ordered a small plaque to mount onto it. There is currently \$65.74 excess funding, which  
157 should go back to the beneficiary. Denis suggested using the funds to put explanatory  
158 signage on the box with a QR code. Sander asked if Denis could present the Selectboard  
159 with a budget for this better signage. Parent asked if it was okay to post on Front Porch  
160 Forum that the box was placed there, to which Denis eagerly said yes! He is from Troop  
161 692.

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163

#### 164 **Consideration of making an appointment to the Planning Commission**

165 Timestamp: 0:43

166

167 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3f\\_Planning  
168 BrytonMoeller\\_01-20-25.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3f_PlanningBrytonMoeller_01-20-25.pdf)

169

170 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Miller, Moeller, Hill

171

172 Moeller provided an introduction, mentioning having moved to Richmond last year,  
173 currently living on Johnny Brook Road. Moeller is trying to put down roots in Vermont  
174 and is starting by running for the Planning Commission; Moeller has some background in  
175 engagement of diverse kinds of community and in collaborative problem solving. Moeller  
176 is studying for a master's degree at UVM. Miller asked where Moeller lived before, to  
177 which Moeller replied Norwich, VT and growing up in California. Hill asked if Moeller  
178 would be available to attend all the Planning Commission meetings, to which the reply  
179 was a resounding yes.

180

181 *Hill moved to appoint Bryton Moeller to the vacant seat on the Planning Commission  
182 which has a term ending in 2028. Miller seconded.*

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

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185

#### 186 **Update on resignation of Lake Iroquois Recreation District Representative**

187 Timestamp: 0:48

188

189 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Linn

190

191 Linn explained that Lake Iroquois Recreation District needs a new representative and the  
192 first Monday in March is the next meeting. The responsibilities are the beach and the 150  
193 acres of recreation trails on the other side of the road. Arneson will post on Front Porch  
194 Forum that a new representative is needed. Interested parties should reach out to Linn.

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196

197 **Discussion of transition of duties from current Town Clerk to newly elected Town**  
198 **Clerk**

199 Timestamp: 0:53

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201 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3h\\_PARENT](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3h_PARENT_TO_ADMINISTRATION.pdf)  
202 [\\_TO\\_ADMINISTRATION.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3h_PARENT_TO_ADMINISTRATION.pdf)

203

204 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Parent, Sunshine, Hill, Furr,  
205 Heston

206

207 Parent stated that since she is retiring, she is officially done with her Town Clerk duties at  
208 7 p.m. on Town Meeting day and she wants advice from the Selectboard with regards to  
209 training or handing over current duties to the newly elected Town Clerk. She added that it  
210 takes about 2 weeks to complete an election. Furr wondered if an open-ended  
211 arrangement should be agreed upon, to which Parent countered she feels the training  
212 period should last until the end of March. Hill said it's important to allow the new Town  
213 Clerk to decide how much training is needed, be it one week or three. Arneson suggested  
214 extending Parent's contract for two weeks. Sunshine thinks it's commendable that Parent  
215 is willing to stay on and help the new Town Clerk. The current Assistant Town Clerk  
216 Adriana will stay on as an Assistant if the new Town Clerk appoints her. Arneson said he  
217 would put together a contract and bring it to the Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting. Heston  
218 suggested reaching out to the two candidates that are on the ballot to ask how long it will  
219 take before they can start in their official role as the new Town Clerk if elected.

220

221

222 **Consideration of approval of Spring Launch Gravel Ride**

223 Timestamp: 1:03

224

225 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3i1\\_Town\\_of](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3i1_Town_of_Richmond_Gravel_Ride_25-2.pdf)  
226 [\\_Richmond\\_Gravel\\_Ride\\_25-2.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3i1_Town_of_Richmond_Gravel_Ride_25-2.pdf)

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228 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3i2\\_Gravel](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3i2_Gravel_Ride_Signage_Volunteer_Plan.pdf)  
229 [Ride\\_Signage\\_Volunteer\\_Plan.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3i2_Gravel_Ride_Signage_Volunteer_Plan.pdf)

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231 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3i3\\_Gravel](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3i3_Gravel_Safety_Plan_2025.pdf)  
232 [Safety\\_Plan\\_2025.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3i3_Gravel_Safety_Plan_2025.pdf)

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235 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Atkinson, Miller, Hill, Furr

236

237 Atkinson explained that on April 12<sup>th</sup> they are hoping to have their Spring Launch Party  
238 and Gravel Ride that will start and end at the Catamount Outdoor Center in Williston. He  
239 described that a police escort will end at Kenyon Road, then gravel roads will be used  
240 after that around Richmond and Hinesburg. They will have volunteers at all intersections  
241 for safety reasons. There is a 20-mile loop and 50-mile loop. This is not a race, just a ride  
242 and a fundraiser for the Outdoor Center. They are not asking for any road closures. He  
243 estimates around 100-150 participants. The weather date is 2 weeks later. Miller asked  
244 about the Police escort on Route 2, to which he replied that the Police will set the speed  
245 for the first 20 minutes of the ride. He has asked Williston Police and has not received a  
246 reply yet. Furr suggested waiting until the police presence was secured.

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*Furr moved to approve the use of Richmond Roads as presented for the Spring Launch Gravel Ride conditional on police presence. Hill seconded.  
Roll Call Vote: Furr, Sander, Miller, Hill in favor. Motion approved.*

**Discussion of complaint of ethics violation**

Timestamp: 1:12

[https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3j\\_Code\\_of\\_Ethics\\_FINAL\\_08-21-23.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3j_Code_of_Ethics_FINAL_08-21-23.pdf)

People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Hill, Holt, Miller, Parisi, Machia, Filkins, Chelsye, Furr

Hill asked if there was a reason not to have this as a public discussion, to which no one objected. Arneson explained that this stems from the Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Development Review Board (DRB) meeting, where Matt Parisi is accused of having a conflict of interest and should have recused himself from the meeting. Bradley Holt is the complainant. It has been claimed that the DRB meeting minutes did not reflect Parisi’s wish to purchase a lot from the condo association, which would be a conflict of interest since he is on the DRB, but Arneson has gone back and checked the video, and the minutes appear to be correct. Holt stated that in the video Parisi said he wants to purchase a boundary line adjustment, yet in the minutes it states he is going to purchase the lot that's created through the subdivision, which he believes is an important distinction. Holt feels Parisi should have recused himself. Hill wanted clarification as to what Article in the DRB Holt was referring to specifically, 3 or 4. Holt feels that Parisi becoming a landowner while on the DRB is a conflict of interest. Miller asked for clarification as to what outcomes Holt wishes for his complaint. Holt was unable to answer.

Parisi defended himself by stating that he had no part in the application that the condo association submitted; he feels the condo association should be invited into this conversation. Parisi continued that the purchase of this land has only been spoken about and is not in a contract yet, it has simply been a verbal conversation of interest. Machia read aloud the definitions of the Code of Ethics and what constitutes an official act, a quasi-judicial proceeding, and a conflict of interest. He stated that a “sketch plan review” (which is what this meeting was) is not binding, advisory only, not appealable to environmental court, no discretionary judgment is made, no official act has been taken. Therefore, there was no conflict of interest.

Furr displayed on the screen a summary published by the Vermont State Ethics Commission of the new Vermont Municipal Code of Ethics, which supersedes our Town policy, he feels strongly that anybody who is in the public eye and is voted for and has the public’s trust needs to avoid even the appearance of ethical impropriety. Hill added that there is a connection about what you're sharing there, and the full language in Article One, which reads, “a signatory shall not participate in any official act or action, if he or she has a conflict of interest, whether real or perceived.” Sunshine mentioned that the summary shown by Furr came into effect on January 1, 2025, and it’s important to keep in mind what was effect at the time of this complaint which was in December 2024. He

297 continued that a sketch plan is an informal discussion, it's not an official meeting, thus he  
298 does not feel there was a conflict of interest. Furr disagreed. Machia added what is the  
299 importance of ethics, "what are we holding people accountable to, a sketch plan is not an  
300 official act, thus there is no conflict of interest." Miller thinks what is being discussed  
301 needs to be laid out clearly. Hill agreed with Machia that no official judgement was  
302 brought forward, so no conflict of interest took place.

303

304 The new Municipal Code of Ethics is different, moving forward this needs to change to  
305 an "appearance of conflict of interest." Sunshine reiterated that the DRB is a lay board in  
306 Richmond. Filkins said we are a small Town and in the interest of wanting to develop  
307 more housing, this is not what constitutes an ethics violation. Chelsye believes Holt is  
308 being vilified for raising this concern and that his claim is legitimate. Holt countered that  
309 there seems to be a lot of confusion about what an ethical standard is and should be, he  
310 suggests putting in writing if a sketch plan is an official act or not. Miller thought that  
311 was a good idea, and that this should be discussed with the Ethics Commission. Machia  
312 added that sketch plans are voluntary processes and sketch plans don't have written  
313 results, so nothing is appealable by any party. Hill explained that you cannot hold people  
314 accountable to a statue that didn't exist at the time, but this complaint could be brought to  
315 the Town's attorney.

316

317

#### 318 **Update on moratorium for Emergency Watershed Protection program funds for** 319 **projects related to the 2024 flooding**

320 Timestamp: 2:13

321

322 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson

323

324 Arneson explained that there is a moratorium on any new obligations for Emergency  
325 Watershed Protection Program funds, which would benefit 8 properties in Richmond. The  
326 Secretary of Agriculture has put this moratorium in place.

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#### 329 **Follow up on Southview Stormwater Notice of Intent and review of Soils** 330 **Investigation**

331 Timestamp: 2:16

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333 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/311\\_follow\\_u](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/311_follow_up_from_state_on_1-22-25_re_NOI.pdf)  
334 [p\\_from\\_state\\_on\\_1-22-25\\_re\\_NOI.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/311_follow_up_from_state_on_1-22-25_re_NOI.pdf)

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336 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/312\\_2025-01-](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/312_2025-01-29_SouthviewTask4_SummaryMemo.pdf)  
337 [29\\_SouthviewTask4\\_SummaryMemo.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/312_2025-01-29_SouthviewTask4_SummaryMemo.pdf)

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340 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Hill, Kaleita

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342 Arneson said the engineering is not complete and the Notice of Intent (NOI) is  
343 incomplete. We have received an extension on the 60-day deadline for the NOI, but we  
344 do not have all the homeowners on the NOI making it incomplete. We stated in the NOI  
345 that we want to separate out Hidden Pines and Mary Drive, which we now have in place  
346 and in writing, those neighborhoods will have their own engineering done. Hill

347 mentioned that Richmond put forth a bill that purports to address some of these things as  
348 an orphan project, and when he looked at it earlier, it had been assigned a committee but  
349 hadn't had any hearings yet. Also, VLCT intends to do a legislative update, since  
350 stormwater was not a prominent feature in their last legislative session. Arneson said that  
351 the engineers will come to the next Selectboard meeting to give a report. The engineers  
352 will complete their scope of work in the Spring. The engineers have not completed their  
353 report, so Arneson has not yet gotten a final bill. Kaleita said there's been a lot in the  
354 news recently, particularly about the Governor's address on the clean heat standard, and  
355 they want to repeal it, because they don't feel it's right to make some Vermonters pay for  
356 all this stuff; something she feels is a parallel to our Stormwater issue and she encourages  
357 people to read about it.

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### 360 **Update on DRB approval of the Browns Ct. Site Plan Review**

361 Timestamp: 2:28

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363 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3m\\_DRB\\_A](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3m_DRB_A)  
364 [approval\\_of\\_Browns\\_Ct\\_Site\\_Plan.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3m_DRB_A)

365

366 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Hill

367

368 Arneson said there is now a bid in for the Pickleball courts and the trees that will be  
369 planted around the courts, so that is moving forward. Hill wondered if there were any  
370 adjoining neighbors at the DRB meeting regarding the pickleball courts, to which  
371 Arneson said he didn't think so.

372

373

### 374 **Update on funding from FEMA for the January 2024 Wind Storm**

375 Timestamp: 2:30

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377 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3n\\_DR4770-](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3n_DR4770-)  
378 [Richmond-Agreementpg4pg23.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3n_DR4770-)

379

380 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson

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382 Arneson stated that reimbursement for clean-up from this storm is moving along nicely,  
383 having a total cost of \$12,000.

384

### 385 **Richmond Rescue FY25 Q2 report**

386 Timestamp: 2:31

387

388 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3o\\_Richmon](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3o_Richmon)  
389 [d\\_Rescue\\_Report.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3o_Richmon)

390

391 People who participated in discussion: Sander Hill

392

393 Hill mentioned that Richmond Rescue should be considered a private non-profit  
394 organization and kudos to them for being so transparent. Next year's funding cycle we  
395 could ask people to submit data mid-year and at the end of year.

396



397 **Consideration of approving project completion forms for the Vermont Bond Bank**

398 Timestamp: 2:33

399

400 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3p1\\_02-03-25\\_VBB Certificate of Completion 2005 Fire Truck.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3p1_02-03-25_VBB_Certificate_of_Completion_2005_Fire_Truck.pdf)

401

402 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3p2\\_02-03-25\\_VBB Certificate of Completion Jericho Road.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/01/3p2_02-03-25_VBB_Certificate_of_Completion_Jericho_Road.pdf)

403

404

405 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson

406

407 Arneson pointed out that these projects have been completed for many years.

408

409 *Furr moved to approve the Certificates of Project Completion for the Jericho Road Infrastructure bond and the 2005 Fire Truck. Hill seconded.*

410

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

412

413 **Consideration of holding the second Selectboard meeting in February on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, due to the holiday on Monday, February 17, 2025**

414

415 Timestamp: 2:35

416

417 People who participated in discussion: Sander

418

419 *Hill moved to hold the second Selectboard meeting in February on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, due to the holiday on Monday, February 17, 2025. Furr seconded.*

420

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

422

423 **Approval of Minutes, Purchase Orders, Warrants**

424

425 Timestamp: 2:36

426

427 **Minutes:**

428

429 *Miller moved to approve the draft Minutes of Selectboard on 01/21/25 as presented. Hill seconded.*

430

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

432

433

434 **Motions for Purchase Orders:**

435

436 *Miller moved to approve purchase order number 4916 to Richmond Water Resources for Fire Protection in the amount of \$50,681.00. Hill seconded.*

437

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

439

440 *Hill moved to amend purchase order number 4974 to Simpleroute for IT Services to a total of \$23,001.00 noting that the Water Resources Department is responsible for a portion of this purchase order. Furr seconded.*

441

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

443

444

447

448 **Warrants:**

449

450 *Miller moved to approve the Warrants as presented. Hill seconded.*

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

452

453 The Town has bought into a Solar Array which will save on future power bills. The solar  
454 array is a fixed monthly cost.

455

456

457 **Executive Sessions**

458

459 *Furr moved to find that premature public knowledge about an unfair labor practice*  
460 *charge would cause the Town or the person to suffer a substantial disadvantage. Hill*  
461 *seconded.*

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

463

464 *Furr moved that we enter into executive session to discuss an unfair labor practice*  
465 *charge under the provisions of 1 VSA 313(a)(1)(e) of the Vermont Statutes and to invite*  
466 *Town Manager Josh Arneson into the executive session. Miller seconded.*

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

468

469 *Furr moved that we exit the executive session. Hill seconded.*

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

471

472

473 **Update on Police Department hiring**

474

475

476 *Furr moved to find that premature public knowledge about police department hiring*  
477 *would cause the Town or the person to suffer a substantial disadvantage. Hill seconded.*

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

479

480 *Furr moved that we enter into executive session to discuss police department hiring*  
481 *under the provisions of 1 VSA 313(a)(3) of the Vermont Statutes and to invite Town*  
482 *Manager Josh Arneson into the executive session. Hill seconded.*

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

484

485 *Hill moved that we exit the executive session. Miller seconded.*

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

487

488

489 **Next Meeting Agenda**

490 Timestamp: 2:43

491

492 Ethics

493 Charitable foundations form

494

495 **Adjourn**

496

497 *Furr moved to adjourn. Miller seconded.*  
498 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Furr, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

499  
500

501 **Meeting adjourned at: 10:37 pm**

502  
503

504 **Chat file from Zoom:**

505

506 00:44:44 Nick: QR Code

507 01:24:33 Chelsye's iPhone: I would like to point out that the timing of this is  
508 right after the DRB had already been called out on another ethics issue.

509

510 I am concerned with the fact that all of the other DRB members thought this was ok.

511

512 He is not only an abutting landowner. He is a developer who had been in previous talks  
513 about purchasing land, presumably to further develop his rental property.

514 01:29:03 Chelsye's iPhone: The conflict in my opinion is that he is a developer,  
515 and as a member of the DRB shouldn't have been sitting with the board during a sketch  
516 plan review in which he has a clear interest which would financially benefit him.

517

518 Matt says he was not part of the application, however if you watch back the meeting you  
519 will see that he presented the sketch plan proposal, more so than even the condo  
520 association did. He is the one that knew all the facts, even back to the history of the  
521 condo association and how there was originally a plan for 4 more units.

522

523 The fact that you felt it was necessary to go to Tyler ahead of time indicates even you  
524 yourself felt that there was a conflict of interest or at the very least could be a perceived  
525 conflict of interest.

526 01:35:02 Chelsye's iPhone: If there is even a perceived conflict of interest I  
527 believe it is the responsibility of the member of the board to handle it transparently.

528 Disclose all possible conflicts and ex parte communications.

529

530 Mr. Parisi was also not the one who made the statement that he thought he could act  
531 impartially, it was the chair David Sunshine who made the statement that since no  
532 decision was being made, that it was fine if he participated, then went ahead to ask if it  
533 was ok with the condo association of Mr. Parisi didn't recuse himself.

534

535 The condo association obviously had no problem with it. They said themselves that they  
536 were planning to talk further about the sale and subdivision.

537 01:36:51 Chelsye's iPhone: Mr. Parisi is the newest member of the DRB. I am  
538 just as concerned, if not more concerned over the fact that the other, more experienced  
539 members of the DRB believed this to be appropriate.

540 01:40:40 Chelsye's iPhone: Sketch plan is informal, and meant to help the  
541 applicant have higher success when they gear up to bring their actual preliminary review  
542 in front of the DRB. The intended result of the sketch plan is not just for 'fun' it is to  
543 better prepare applicants and give them a higher success rate.

544

545 If the Selectboard watches back the meeting you will see that Mr. Parisi actually knows  
546 more about the proposed plan, the 'unofficial sketch plan', than the applicant.

547  
548 It was alarming to be quite honest.  
549 01:42:07 Chelsye's iPhone: Ethics is to hold people to integrity.  
550  
551 Calling someone out, is not weaponization.  
552  
553 How would there be change if no one spoke up?  
554  
555 Isn't the act of HOLDING a DRB meeting a quasi judicial act?  
556 02:10:53 Chelsye's iPhone: Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to  
557 progress and unity regarding the topic of ethics among the town employees, boards, and  
558 committees.  
559 02:39:01 MMCTV Studio (Richmond): Is Item O Richmond Rescue FY25  
560 Q2 report moved to another time?  
561