

TOWN OF
RICHMOND
M A S S A C H U S E T T S



*Photo Credit:
Patrick Barry*

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



RICHMOND TOWN HALL

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday – 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Wednesday – 8:00 am – 6:00 pm

(413) 553-7793

Town Administrator – Danielle Fillio

Treasurer/Tax Collector – Amy Lane-Carmody

Town Clerk – Angela Garrity

Town Accountant – Angela Garrity

**Administrative Assistant/COA Director /
Assistant Town Clerk** – Heather Lorange

Board of Selectmen

2nd and 4th Wednesday – 6:00 pm

Board of Assessors

2nd Wednesday – 5:00 pm

Board of Health

1st Tuesday – 5:00 pm

Planning Board

2nd Monday – 6:30 pm

Conservation Commission

2nd Tuesday – 6:00 pm

Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer – Paul Greene

Chief of Police – Patrick Barry
413-441-1106

Animal Control Officer
John Drake
413-464-2148



In Memoriam



*Each year we honor town officers and employees
who have passed away.*

In 2025 we lost the following:

Nancy Reynolds Benedict

1926 – 2025

Office Manager

Secretary, Accountant

Community Health Association funded by the town

James Blair

1938 – 2025

Town Committee Member

Eric Latimer

1937 – 2025

Fire Department

Richmond Constable

Richmond Consolidated School Custodian

Sports Coach

This town report is dedicated to their memory.

Town of Richmond

Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORTS of the Town Officers



For the Year Ending
December 31, 2025

FY 2025 Tax Rate – \$ 9.88
FY 2025 Total Valuation – \$ 651,822,817.00
FY 2025 Total Tax Levied – \$ 6,440,009.44

Population Local Census – 1,165
Population Federal Census 2020 – 1,407
Registered Voters – 1,287
Area of Town – 19.07 Square Miles



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DIRECTORY OF TOWN OFFICIALS

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS

Selectmen

Neal Pilson, 2028

Roger Manzolini, 2026
Chair

Alan Hanson, 2027

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Delegate

Neal Pilson

Board of Health

Katy Broggi, 2026

Richard Rosenfeld, 2028

Laurence Cohen, 2026
Chair

Linda Collins Mitchell, 2028

School Committee

Thomas Forstner, 2028

Karen Youdelman, 2026

Ina Wilhelm, 2026
Chair

Kimmie Leeco, 2027

Nate Steele, 2028

Finance Committee

Eileen Martin, 2028

Patricia Callahan, 2028

Robert Gniadek, 2026
Chair

Stevan Patterson, 2027
Robert Youdelman, 2027

Planning Board

Katherine Keenum, 2027

Justin Winters, 2030

Douglas Bruce, 2028
Chair

Richard Bell, 2028

Peter Lopez, 2026

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Delegate

Neal Pilson

Library Trustees

Nanci McConnell, 2028

Kathryn Wilson, 2026
Chair

Katherine Keenum, 2027

Moderator

William Martin, 2026

Deputy Moderator

Vacant

** The date following each name denotes the expiration of the term of office.*

APPOINTED TOWN BOARDS/COMMISSIONS

Board of Appeals

Richard Stover, 2027
Wendy Laurin, 2025

William Martin, 2028
Chair
Robert Harrison (alternate)

Peter Killeen, 2026
Mark Gross, 2026

Assessors

Jeffrey Daigle, 2027
Chair

Raymond Supranowicz, 2026

Budget Advisory Committee

Board of Selectmen

Alan B. Hanson, 2027
Roger W. Manzolini, 2026
Neal Pilson, 2028

Finance Committee

Robert Gniadek, 2026
Eileen Martin, 2028
Patricia Callahan, 2028
Stevan Patterson, 2027
Robert Youdelman, 2027

Conservation Commission

Jamie Rawson, 2027
Derek Sipma, 2027

Tom Potter, 2026

Paula Patterson, 2028
Paul Neumann, 2026

Registrars of Voters

Claudia Ryan, 2027

John Ryan, 2027

Historical Commission

Allison Edwards, 2027

William Edwards, 2028
Gloria Morse, 2029

Melanie Madea-Dignum, 2027
Frieda Pilson, 2029

Recreation Committee

Doug Bruce, 2027
Brad Havill, 2028

Jeff Konowitch, 2027
Chair

Mike Harke, 2028
Andy Leeco, 2029

TOWN OFFICERS

** As of January 1, 2025*

Town Administrator/CPO - Danielle Fillio

Administrative Assistant/COA Director/Assistant Town Clerk - Heather Lorance

Animal Control Officer - John Drake

Assessors' Clerk - Mary Stodden

Board of Health Agent - Valerie Bird

Conservation Agent - Franz Forster

Constables - John Ryan, Patrick Barry

Emergency Management Director - Steve Traver

Emergency Management Assistant Director - Chris Porter

Facilities & Maintenance Manager - Bob Hammer

Fence Viewers - Alan B. Hanson, Roger W. Manzolini, Neal Pilson

Field Drivers - Alan B. Hanson, Roger W. Manzolini, Neal Pilson

Highway Department Superintendent - Peter Beckwith

Garrett Barsalou, Travis Searing, Brett Smith

Inspector of Buildings/Zoning Enforcement - Paul Greene; **Assistant** - Brian Duval

Inspector of Gas and Plumbing - Robert Gennari

Asst. Inspector of Gas and Plumbing - Robert Krupski

Inspector of Oil Burners - Steve Traver

Inspector of Wiring - Nick Fredsall

Asst. Inspector of Wiring - Rob Kimberley

Interim Fire Chief - Gerry Cahalan

Library Director - Kristin Smith

Police Chief - William Bullett

Deputy Police Chief - Patrick Barry

Sewer Operations - Peter Beckwith, Horace Brazie, Forest Borden

Superintendent of Cemeteries - Peter Beckwith & Rich Atwood, Plot Manager

Superintendent of Dutch Elm and Gypsy Moth - Peter Beckwith

Town Accountant - Angela Garrity

Town Clerk - Angela Garrity

Town Counsel - Elizabeth Goodman

Town Treasurer/Collector - Amy Lane-Carmody

Tree Warden - Adam Weinberg

Veterans' Agent - James Clark



WARRANT FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Berkshire, ss



DRAFT ONLY

To any of the Constables of the Town
of Richmond in said County,
Greetings:

In the name of said Commonwealth, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Richmond qualified to vote in town affairs to meet in the Consolidated School of said Richmond on **May 20, 2026, at 7:30 PM**, and then and there to act upon the following:

[Consent Calendar- Articles 1-3]

ARTICLE 1 - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to determine the manner of repairing the highways and caring for the cemeteries for the year.

ARTICLE 2 - REVOLVING FUND LIMITS. To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of Section 53E 1/2 of Chapter 44 of the General Laws, to authorize the spending limits of the revolving funds outlined below. Expenditures from said funds shall not exceed the amount of funds received in the respective accounts or authorized below, shall come from any funds received by the respective boards and officers for performing services, shall be used solely for the purpose of coordinating and carrying out the programs delineated and shall be approved by a majority vote of the respective boards or officers.

Inspection Services - \$20,000

Council on Aging - \$5,000

Board of Health - \$2,500

Wetland Protection - \$5,000

Municipal Building or Property Rental - \$10,000

ARTICLE 3 - To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and accept any monies appropriated for use by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for Chapter 90 highway aid and to fund the appropriation by transferring said amounts from available funds. Said funds shall carry over from year to year until spent by the Town and shall be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in accordance with Chapter 90 of the General Laws.
(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)

ARTICLE 4 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as shall be deemed necessary for the upkeep and repair of the buildings, equipment, highways and cemeteries and for all other charges and expenses of the Town for the year and to set the salaries and compensation of all elected officials of the Town as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws. [Fiscal Year 2026 amounts are shown for comparative purposes. Please see the Explanations section following this warrant for more information] *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

[LINE ITEMS]

EXPENDITURES	FY2026	DRAFT	Increase/	Percent
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		FY 2027	Decrease	Change
Assessors Salaries	3,600	3,600	-	0.0%
Assessors Expenses	28,500	21,000	(7,500).	-26.3%
Assessor's Contracted Services	44,220	48,600	4,380	9.9%
Audit	15,000	16,000	1,000	6.7%
Longevity & Vacation Buyout	10,000	10,000	-	0.0%
Moderator Salary	500	500	-	0.0%
Selectmen Salaries	5,250	5,250	-	0.0%
Selectmen Expenses	4,500	4,500	-	0.0%
Town ClerkSalary	17,912	18,449	537	3.0%
Town Clerk Expenses	9,000	9,000	-	0.0%
Treasurer/collector Salary	70,297	72,406	2,109	3.0%
Treasurer/Collector Expenses	13,000	13,000	-	0.0%
Tax Title Expense	4,000	4,000	-	0.0%
Town Accountant Salary	65,002	66,952	1,950	3.0%
Town Accountant Expenses	1,500	1,500	-	0.0%
Administrative Assistant/Council on Agir	55,167	56,822	1,655	3.0%
Town Counsel/Legal Services	20,000	20,000	-	0.0%
Town Report	4,000	4,000	-	0.0%
Town Hall	50,000	50,000	-	0.0%
Elections and Voter Registration	8,000	8,000	-	0.0%
Town Admin	92,723	96,432	3,709	4.0%
Town Admin Expenses	3,000	3,000	-	0.0%
Conservation Commission Expenses	3,500	3,500	-	0.0%
Conservation Agent Salary	24,720	24,720	-	0.0%
Planning Board	285	285	-	0.0%
IT Services	22,000	22,000	-	0.0%
Technoloav Hardware/ Software purchas	22,000	22,000	-	0.0%
Berkshire Regional Planning Commissior	1,198	1,198	-	0.0%
Group Purchasing	800	800	-	0.0%
Misc Expenses	700	700	-	0.0%
Stationery and Office Supply	7,000	7,000	-	0.0%

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Town Facility Maintenance	25,000	25,000	-	0.0%
Legal Advertising	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
Training	4,000	4,000	-	0.0%
Office Equipment	3,000	3,000	-	0.0%
Website Hosting	1,900	1,900	-	0.0%
General Government - Subtotal	646,274	654,114	7,840	1.2%

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police Chief Salary	2,400	4,400	2,000.	83.3%
Deputy Police Chief Salary	2,000	0	(2,000).	-100.0%
Police Department Expenses	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
Constable Expenses	500	500	-	0.0%
Animal Control Officer Salary	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
Animal Control Officer Expenses	500	500	-	0.0%
Fire Department Expenses and On call S	94,756	85,750	(9,006).	-9.5%
Fire House Rent	24,000	24,000	-	0.0%
Emergency Management	3,500	3,500	-	0.0%
Fire Chief Salary & Stipends	17,912	31,912	14,000.	78.2%
Tree Warden	7,500	7,500	-	0.0%
Building Inspector Salary	8,600	8,932	332	3.9%
Building Inspector Expenses	4,800	4,800	-	0.0%
Alternate Building Inspector	300	300	-	0.0%
Zoning Enforcement Officer	4,580	4,717	137	3.0%
Zoning Enforcement Expenses	500	500	-	0.0%
Stray Animals	100	100	-	0.0%
Inspection Services	100	100	-	0.0%
Public Safety- Subtotal	178,048	183,511	5,463	3.1%

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Board of Health Salaries	850	850	-	0.0%
Board of Health Expenses	4,000	4,000	-	0.0%
Board of Health Contracted Services	23,133	29,500	6,367.	27.5%
Council on Aging Expenses	2,500	5,000	2,500.	100.0%
Veteran's Agent Salary	500	500	-	0.0%
Veterans' Aid	9,500	9,500	-	0.0%
Health- Subtotal	40,483	49,350	8,867.	21.9%

PUBLIC WORKS

			-	
Machinery Maintenance	75,000	75,000	-	0.0%
Road Construction	125,000	125,000	-	0.0%
Road Maintenance	38,500	38,500	-	0.0%
Town Garage	12,900	13,000	100	0.8%
Winter Roads	160,000	175,000	15,000	9.4%

Richmond Annual Town Report - 2025

Gravel Roads	55,000	55,000	-	0.0%
Salaries	336,567	354,529	17,962	5.3%
OT	33,000	36,000	3,000	9.1%
Fuel	40,000	40,200	200	0.5%
Utilities	12,800	13,000	200	1.6%
Beaver Control	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
Highwa s- Subtotal	893,767	930,229	36,462	4.1%
Town Beach	18,000	5,000	(13,000).	-72.2%
Richmond Pond Ramp Monitors	10,000	23,000	13,000.	130.0%
Rubbish Disposal	249,107	261,600	12,493	5.0%
Cemetery Superintendent Salary	2,500	2,500	-	0.0%
Cemetery Expenses	10,500	10,500	-	0.0%
Public Works - Subtotal	1,183,874	1,232,829	48,955.	4.1%

CULTURE & RECREATION

Recreation Committee	3,750	3,750	-	0.0%
Memorial Day	200	500	300.	150.0%
Historical Commission	500	500	-	0.0%
Library	80,574	82,185	1,611	2.0%
Culture & Recreation- Subtotal	85,024	86,935	1,911	2.2%

FIXED COSTS

Berkshire County Retirement	233,450	228,060	(5,390).	-2.3%
Group Insurance	210,000	241,275	31,275.	14.9%
Unemployment Reserve	2,500	2,500	-	0.0%
Liabiliy Insurance and Bonding	130,000	135,000	5,000	3.8%
Fixed Costs- Subtotal	575,950	606,835	30,885	5.4%

OTHER EXPENDITURES

Medicare	53,000	56,000	3,000	5.7%
Other Ependitures- Subtotal	53,000	56,000	3,000	5.7%

Line Item Budget - TOTAL	2,762,653	2,869,575	106,922	3.9%
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ARTICLE 5 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$433,700** for the debt service payment for the Town Hall/Library Building (*Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee*)

ARTICLE 6 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000** for the debt service payment for the Fire Truck acquired in 2025 (*Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee*)

ARTICLE 7 - To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of **\$5,500** to cover the cost of Ambulance Salaries. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 8 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$45,000** to cover the cost of Ambulance Salaries. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 9 - To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of **\$150,000** from the ambulance receipts account to the ambulance expense accounts for the operation of the Richmond Ambulance service, the maintenance of the town ambulance, and for payments to County Ambulance and to other ambulance services providing backup and advanced life support to the Richmond Ambulance service, with any unexpended balance to be returned to the ambulance reserve account. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 10 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,882,305** for the support of the school. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 11- To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of **\$20,000** to the reserve fund. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 12 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$20,000** for the reserve fund. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 13 - To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of **\$6,000** for a fuel emergency assistance program administered under a contract with Berkshire Community Action Council for the benefit of low-income Richmond residents. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 14 - To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of **\$5,000** for the treatment of weeds in Richmond Pond. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 15 - To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of **\$2,140** to pay for prior fiscal year bills. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 16 - To see if the Town will vote to create a special Stabilization Fund for the purpose of town needs related to Maintenance and Repairs of Town Buildings. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)* **TWO – THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED**

ARTICLE 17 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$80,000** to the Stabilization Fund for Maintenance and Repairs of Town Buildings. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 18 - To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of **\$60,000** For the purchase of a pick-up truck. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 19 - To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of **\$16,500** to purchase a new lawnmower to be used for Highway, School and Cemetery Departments. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 20 - To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$6,500** to make temporary repairs on private ways including roads which are part of Richmond Shores Association and Whitewood Association. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 21- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$56,080 from the FY27 receipts; Transfer \$19,500 from sewer retained earnings; and transfer \$170,301 from Sewer Betterments for a total of **\$245,881** to operate the Sewer Enterprise System. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 22 - Massachusetts General Law: Seasonal Community Designation

To see if the Town will vote to accept on behalf of the Town of Richmond, the Seasonal Community Designation as provided for in General Laws Chapter 23B, Section 32(b); or to take any other action relative thereto.

You are also directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of Richmond qualified to vote in town affairs to meet in the Town Hall on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 11:00 AM, to bring in votes for the following Town Officers:

Board of Health	3 years
Finance Committee	3 years
Library Trustee	3 years
Moderator	1 year
Planning Board	5 years
Select Board	3 years
School Committee	3 Years
School Committee	1 Year

Question 1.

Shall the Town of Richmond be allowed to assess an additional \$250,513 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of stabilizing the Town's budget and reserves and to continue to provide ongoing Town services across all departments, including our school, library, public safety, public works, and general government, for which the monies will be used for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026.

And the polls may close at 7:00 PM.

And you will serve the warrant by posting up true and attested copies hereof, one at the Richmond Town Hall, one at the Richmond Post Office, one at the Bartlett's Orchard bulletin board and one at the Richmond Shores Civic Association bulletin board, seven days at least before the time of said meeting.

Given under our hands this day of April 2026.

Board of Selectmen
Roger Manzolini, Chairman
Alan Hanson
Neal Pilson

I have posted true and attested copies hereof, one at the Richmond Town Hall, one at the Richmond Post Office, one at the Bartlett's Orchard bulletin board, and one at the Richmond Shores Civic Association bulletin board.

Constable

Date





EXPLANATIONS

Introduction

As is the custom, we are providing a brief explanation of each article and line item in the warrant.

Budget Summary

The proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget for the Town of Richmond is \$9,457,461, which is an increase of \$76,845, or 0.8%. This year the Budget Advisory Committee (Selectmen and Finance Committee) were challenged to be able to present a budget that could come within the constraints of the Town's Proposition 2 ½ levy limit. Reductions in revenue (including free cash) and increases in expenses (including health insurance and unavoidable legally required Special Education expense) created the need for the town to have a 2 ½ override question on the Annual Election ballot. Also contributing to the override need are articles to fund a proposed Stabilization Fund for Maintenance and Repairs of town buildings and an increase in the Reserve Fund. This year's budget also includes a 3% salary increase for town employees as well as increases in our health and liability insurance assessments. However, once again you will see that many of our non-salary related line items have been level funded (or reduced in some cases) from their Fiscal Year 2026 levels. The School Committee's Fiscal Year 2027 request from the town budget is \$4,882,305, an increase of \$289,309, or 6.3% over total school appropriations in Fiscal Year 2026.

The proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Sewer Budget is \$245,881. This budget funds the costs of operating the system as well as debt payment associated with the system's design and construction. All these costs are borne by the users of the system. The \$10,000 increase will be taken from Sewer Free Cash to help offset the expense increase to the City of Pittsfield, as well as smoke testing to check for leaks to be in compliance with our I&I requirements.

The breakdown of the revenues that will be required to meet the proposed expenditures for Fiscal Year 2027 in comparison to Fiscal Year 2026 are as follows:

Source of Revenue	2026	2027	Percent change of Revenues	2027 Percentage of <u>Total Revenue</u>
Real and Personal Property Taxes (Tax Levy)	\$6,703,773	\$7,026,041	4.8%	74.3%
2 ½ Override	\$ -	\$ 250,513	-	2.6%
Non-Property Tax (State Aid, Local Receipts, Transfers, Other)	\$2,676,843	\$2,180,917	-18.5%	23.1%
Totals	\$9,380,616	\$9,457,471	.8%	100%

Again this year, Town Meeting consideration of the warrant articles will be done using the

“consent calendar” approach. The Moderator will ask the town meeting attendees for permission to consider Articles 1-3 together, which will allow discussion of any of the articles under a single motion and will ask for a vote on all three articles on the same motion. In addition, in order to save time at the town meeting, the Moderator will not read all of the line items but will read the heading of each section of line items and ask for any “holds” for each section. He will reserve any held line items for further discussion after seeking approval of any “non-held” line items and then proceed to discuss and vote on any held line items individually. For more information about the town budget process, please contact the Selectmen's Office.

Consent Calendar- Articles 1-3

Article 1- Repair Highways and Care for Cemeteries

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to determine the manner of repairing the highways and caring for the cemeteries for the year.

Article 2- Revolving Fund Limits

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of Section 53E 1/2 of Chapter 44 of the General Laws, to authorize the spending limits of the revolving funds outlined below. Expenditures from said funds shall not exceed the amount of funds received in the respective accounts or authorized below, shall come from any funds received by the respective boards and officers for performing services, shall be used solely for the purpose of coordinating and carrying out the programs delineated and shall be approved by a majority vote of the respective boards or officers.

Inspection Services - \$20,000

Council on Aging - \$5,000

Board of Health - \$2,500

Wetland Protection - \$5,000

Municipal Building or Property Rental - \$10,000

Article 3- Transportation Bond

This is a standard article allowing the Town to spend a state grant for road construction and repair. The Town's share for Fiscal Year 2027 is estimated to be \$290,512.

Article 4- Line Items

This article raises and appropriates the funds for the general operational expenses of the Town. Only items that are raised and appropriated from taxes appear in this article. Items that call for other methods of funding, such as transfers between accounts, require separate articles. Also, pursuant to Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws, we have shown each elected officer's salary below each applicable line item on the warrant. (All line items below are recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

1. Assessors Salaries: \$3,600- These are the annual salaries of the Assessors with \$1,200 per Assessor. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

2. Assessors Expenses: \$21,000- This account pays for the Assessors' office supplies, map updating, contracted services, software licenses, and other expenses. \$7,500 decrease from Fiscal Year 2026 since updated software has not yet been implemented.
3. Assessor Contracted Services: \$48,600- This account pays for the contract between the Town and Regional Resource Group (a private contractor), for the assessing services it provides to the Town. 10 % increase from Fiscal Year 2026 per contract.
4. Audit: \$16,000- To be used to fund the annual audit of the Town's books using the Town's outside auditor, Thomas P. Scanlon, CPA. \$1,000 increase from Fiscal Year 2026.
5. Longevity/Vacation Buyout: \$10,000- We offer longevity stipends to employees after a certain number of years of service. Three employees are eligible for longevity. Also, all non-school personnel are eligible for one week buy-back vacation. 16.7% decrease of \$2,000 from Fiscal Year 2026 as less people qualify for longevity.
6. Moderator Salary: \$500- The Moderator is entitled to a \$500 salary. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.
7. Selectmen Salaries: \$5,250- These are the annual salaries of the Selectmen at \$1,750 per Selectman. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.
8. Selectmen Expenses: \$4,500- This account pays for meetings, mileage, trainings, dues, and other expenses of the Selectmen. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.
9. Town Clerk Salaries: \$18,449- This is the salary line for the Town Clerk, who is the Town's official record keeper and license issuer. This line includes a 3% salary increase of \$537 over Fiscal Year 2026.
10. Town Clerk Expenses: \$9,000- This pays for software licensing, maintenance of voting machines and poll pads, mileage, dues, and other Town Clerk expenses. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.
11. Treasurer/Collector Salary: \$72,406- This is the annual salary of the Treasurer/Collector who manages the Town's financial transactions, provides benefits management for all employees including payroll, oversees properties placed in Tax Title, and collects all personal, property, motor vehicle excise taxes and sewer fees. 3% increase of \$2,109 over Fiscal Year 2026.
12. Treasurer/Collector Expenses: \$13,000- This account pays for meetings, conferences, mileage and other expenses of the Treasurer/Collector. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.
13. Tax Title Expense: \$4,000- This is used to cover legal costs of the tax taking process. Fees are collected once a closing and pay-off are completed. This can, however, take years. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.
14. Town Accountant Salary: \$66,952- This is the annual salary of the Town Accountant, who

maintains the Town's accounts, prepares the weekly warrant that the Selectmen sign to approve payment of the Town's bills, and who files regular reports with the Department of Revenue. 3% increase of \$1,950 over Fiscal Year 2026.

15. Town Accountant Expenses: \$1,500- This account pays for training, meetings, mileage, and other expenses of the Town Accountant. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

16. Administrative Assistant/COA Director/Assistant Town Clerk: \$56,822- This is a combined position. 3% increase of \$1,655 over Fiscal Year 2026.

17. Town Counsel: \$20,000- This amount is used for Town Counsel and Special Town Counsel services, who advise and defend the Town in legal matters. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

18. Town Report: \$4,000- This is the cost of printing the Annual Town Report. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

19. Town Hall: \$50,000- This account pays for utilities, routine maintenance, cleaning, and other goods and services at the Town Hall/Library. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

20. Elections and Board of Registrars: \$8,000- This account pays for the expenses involved in conducting elections, registering voters, and maintaining the street list. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

21. Town Administrator: \$96,432- This is the annual salary of the Town Administrator (a contracted position) who oversees the day-to-day operations at Town Hall, supervises Town Staff, and serves as the Harbormaster. 4% salary increase of \$3,709 over Fiscal Year 2026.

22. Town Administrator Expenses: \$3,000- This account pays for meetings, conferences, mileage and other expenses of the Town Administrator. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

23. Conservation Commission: \$3,500- This account pays for meetings, conferences, mileage, supplies and other expenses of the Conservation Commission. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

24. Conservation Agent: \$24,720- This line item is to fund the services of the Conservation Agent. No change over Fiscal Year 2026.

25. Historical Commission: \$500- This account pays for copying, membership, meetings and other expenses of the Historical Commission. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

26. Planning Board: \$285- This account pays for annual subscriptions, meetings, and other expenses of the Planning Board. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

27. IT Services: \$22,000- This account is for our contracted IT services currently with Brainspiral Technologies. It covers the expenses related to server maintenance and support,

workstation maintenance and support, and overall IT support for all Town-owned buildings. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

28. Technology Hardware and Software: \$22,000- This account is used to pay for the replacement and/or repair of workstations, copiers, printers, including any software purchases, in all Town-owned buildings. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

29. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission: \$1,198- This is the county's regional planning agency that reviews projects and assists cities and towns on planning and zoning matters. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

30. Group Purchasing: \$800- This pays for the Town's membership in the regional group purchasing program. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

31. Miscellaneous Expenses: \$700- This pays for miscellaneous expenses that may arise and cannot be covered by any other funding source. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

32. Stationery and Office Supply: \$7,000- This account pays for paper, pens, pencils, postage, toner, and similar expenses at Town Hall. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

33. Town Facility Maintenance: \$25,000- This account pays for routine maintenance for all Town facilities and properties. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

34. Legal Advertising: \$5,000- This account pays for the many legal ads that the Town runs each year, ranging from invitations for bids to notices of public hearings. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

35. Training: \$4,000- This account pays for most training/continuing education opportunities for Town officers and employees. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

36. Office Equipment: \$3,000- This account pays for office equipment and furniture, and related expenses. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

37. Website Hosting: \$1,900- This is the annual cost of hosting our Town's website and includes technical support. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY

38. Police Chief Salary: \$4,400- This is the annual salary of the Police Chief, who issues firearms permits, arranges traffic details, and other matters. \$2,000 increase from Fiscal Year 2026 as there is no longer a Deputy Chief. That salary has been added to the Chief's salary.

39. Deputy Police Chief Salary: \$0- There is no longer a position of Deputy Police Chief, this salary amount was moved to the Police Chief Salary.

40. Police Department Expenses: \$1,000- This account pays for the equipment and supplies used by the department, such as badges and firearm licensing supplies. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.
41. Constable Expenses: \$500- This account remains to pay for Constable uniforms as they still work the elections. Salaries are paid for out of the Elections budget. No change from Fiscal year 2026.
42. Animal Control Officer Salary: \$5,000- This is the annual salary for the Animal Control Officer. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.
43. Animal Control Officer Expenses: \$500- This pays for gloves, rabies shots, boarding of animals and other expenses of the Animal Control Officer. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.
44. Stray Animals: \$100- This account will help pay any costs associated with retrieving stray animals, usually farm animals. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.
45. Fire Department: \$85,750- This account pays for fuel, truck and equipment maintenance, training, and other expenses of the Fire Department. This amount includes \$9,000 decrease which resulted from a move to item 48 to better account for stipends for volunteers. 9.5% decrease over Fiscal Year 2026.
46. Fire House Rent: \$24,000- This account pays the rent to the Trustees of the Volunteer Fire Department for use of the building. No change over Fiscal Year 2026 per lease agreement.
47. Emergency Management: \$3,500- This account pays for equipment and supplies for this department, which provides assistance and direction during natural disasters, storms and other emergencies. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.
48. Fire Chief/EMD Salary and Volunteer Stipends: \$31,912- This is the annual salary of the Fire Chief/EMD which is a part-time, non-benefit eligible position and volunteer stipends. \$9,000 was moved from line 45. \$14,000 increase from Fiscal Year 2026.
49. Tree Warden: \$7,500- These funds are used for contracting with a tree service to remove problem trees. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.
50. Building Inspector Salary: \$8,932- This is the Building Inspector's annual salary. 2.6% increase or \$332 over Fiscal Year 2026.
51. Building Inspector Expenses: \$4,800- This account pays for training, expenses and mileage of the Building Inspector and Alternate. 6.7% increase or \$300 over Fiscal Year 2026.
52. Alternate Building Inspector: \$300- This is the annual salary of the Alternate Building Inspector, who fills in if the Building Inspector is not available or has a conflict of interest. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

53. Zoning Enforcement Officer Salary: \$4,717- This is the annual salary of the ZEO, who ensures that building projects and proposed uses conform to the Zoning Bylaw. 3% increase or \$137 over Fiscal Year 2026.

54. Zoning Enforcement Officer Expenses: \$500- This account pays for meetings, mileage and other expenses of the ZEO. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

55. Inspection Services: \$100- This is for inspections by the plumbing, wiring, gas and oil burner inspectors and their alternates on projects such as Town projects, where there is no fee tendered. They receive \$45 per inspection. All other compensation for the inspectors comes from the revolving inspection account where fees for services are paid to the Town and then paid to the inspectors. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

56. Board of Health Salaries: \$850- This is the annual salary account to be divided among five board members. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

57. Board of Health Expenses: \$4,000- This account pays for meetings and other expenses of the Board of Health. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

58. Board of Health Contracted Services: \$29,500- This account covers the cost of additional inspectional services provided to the Board of Health by the Berkshire Public Health Alliance and will now include mandatory town barn inspections. 27.5% decrease of \$6,367 from Fiscal Year 2026. This is a contractual service.

59. Council on Aging: \$5,000- This account pays for the various programs offered by the COA, including senior lunches, health programs and the van program. The Council also receives funding from a state grant and has access to a revolving fund. \$2,500 increase from Fiscal Year 2026.

60. Veterans' Agent Salary: \$500- This is the annual salary for the Town's Veterans' Agent, now contracted through the City of Pittsfield. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

61. Veterans' Aid: \$9,500- This account pays for financial assistance to veterans as required by state law. The State reimburses the Town for 75% of the assistance costs incurred assisting veterans. No change from Fiscal 2026.

PUBLIC WORKS

62. Machinery Maintenance: \$75,000- This account pays for the upkeep and repair of equipment and trucks. No change over Fiscal Year 2026.

63. Road Construction: \$125,000- This account, combined with state transportation bond funds, pays for road construction and re-construction. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

64. Road Maintenance: \$38,500- This account pays for routine road maintenance. No change over Fiscal Year 2026.
65. Town Garage: \$13,000- This account pays for heating fuel, and other expenses at the Town Garage. \$100 increase from Fiscal Year 2026.
66. Winter Roads: \$175,000- This account pays for the plowing and sanding of the roads, including the costs of salt, sand, gravel and winter overtime. \$15,000 increase from Fiscal Year 2026 due to the significant increase in costs of salt and gravel.
67. Gravel Roads: \$55,000- This account pays for the maintenance of the gravel roads. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.
68. Salaries: \$354,529- This account is used to pay the road crew salaries. 5.3% increase of \$17,962 over Fiscal Year 2026 to bring salaries more in line and comparable to Berkshire County.
69. Overtime: \$36,000- This account covers the costs of overtime in the department. 10% increase of \$3,000 over Fiscal Year 2026.
70. Fuel: \$40,200- This account covers the costs of fuel used by multiple Town departments. \$200 increase from Fiscal Year 2026 to reflect actual Town spending more accurately.
71. Utilities: \$13,000- This covers the costs of utilities such as electric, cable, phone, and internet. \$200 increase from Fiscal Year 2026.
72. Beaver Control: \$5,000- This is the account to handle the beaver-related problems that the Town has had in recent years. Much of this funding pays for an agreement with a contractor to maintain several water control devices in water bodies where beavers have set up housekeeping. No change over Fiscal Year 2026.
73. Town Beach: \$5,000- This account pays for the expected lifeguards and equipment costs involved in running the Town Beach. \$13,000 decrease from Fiscal Year 2026 to be added to line 74 to pay for pond monitors since we have not had lifeguards for the last three years.
74. Richmond Pond Ramp Monitors: \$23,000- This pays the wages for the summer boat ramp monitors who under state regulation are required to certify that all water vessels launched from the state boat ramp are free from weeds and zebra mussels. The State of Massachusetts provides partial funding of the costs associated with the administration of this program. 130% increase over Fiscal Year 2026 to reflect actual Town spending more accurately which includes an increase in salaries due to additional duties with the boat washing station. \$13,000 was moved from line 73 Town Beach.
75. Rubbish Disposal: \$261,600- This account pays for the collection and disposal of the Town's garbage and recyclables, as well as participation in the regional Household Hazardous Waste collection days. 5% increase from Fiscal Year 2026.

76. Cemetery Superintendent Salary: \$2,500- This is the annual salary of the Cemetery Plot Manager. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

77. Cemetery Expenses: \$10,500- This account pays for the equipment and supplies in maintaining the cemeteries. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

CULTURE & RECREATION

78. Recreation Committee: \$3,750- This account pays for the various recreation programs offered by the Town, except for the Town Beach, which is operated by the DPW and funded under a separate line item. The committee also has access to a type of revolving fund that allows it to receive and spend program fees. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

79. Memorial Day: \$500- This account pays for flowers, markers and flags for Memorial Day. \$200 increase from Fiscal Year 2026 for increased costs.

80. Library: \$82,185- This account pays the salaries and operating costs of the Library. 2.0% increase or \$1,611 over Fiscal Year 2026.

FIXED COSTS

81. Berkshire County Retirement: \$228,060- This account is Richmond's share paid to the Berkshire County Retirement System to contribute towards the expected retirement costs of Town's municipal employees. Teachers are covered under a separate retirement system administered by the state. 2.3% decrease of \$5,390 from Fiscal Year 2026 due to a decrease in the annual assessment.

82. Group Insurance: \$241,750- This account pays for the Town's share of the health insurance, dental insurance, life insurance for non-school employees. The cost for school personnel is included in the school budget. \$31,275 increase from Fiscal Year 2026. This line is estimated based on the number of anticipated policies for the coming year, an 8.75% rate increase, and a premium holiday for all employees due to required cost savings sharing.

83. Unemployment Reserve: \$2,500- This amount will help to cover the Town's liability if a non-school employee files an unemployment claim. No change from Fiscal Year 2026.

84. Insurance and Bonding: \$135,000- This account pays for the Town's insurance policies, including motor vehicle, property, public liability, worker's compensation, and officers' bonds. 3.8 % increase from Fiscal Year 2026.

OTHER EXPENSES

85. Medicare: \$56,000- This account pays the Town's matching share of Medicare costs. 3% increase of \$3,000 over Fiscal Year 2026.

Article 5- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$433,700** for the

debt service payments for the Town Hall Library Building. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

Article 6- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000** for the debt service payments for the Fire Truck. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

Article 7- To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of **\$5,500** to cover the cost of Ambulance Salaries. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

Article 8- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$45,000** to cover the cost of Ambulance Salaries. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

Article 9- To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of **\$150,000** from the ambulance receipts account to the ambulance expense accounts for the operation of the Richmond Ambulance service, the maintenance of the town ambulance, and for payments to County Ambulance and to other ambulance services providing backup and advanced life support to the Richmond Ambulance service, with any unexpended balance to be returned to the ambulance reserve account. We currently have an agreement to share the costs of providing ambulance services with West Stockbridge. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

Article 10- School Budget: \$4,882,305

This represents a 6.30% increase over the Town's Fiscal Year 2026 school appropriation. While the total school budget exceeds the amount to be voted, the difference will be made up through the use of School Choice funds, grants, and other school revenues. Below is a comparison of the accounts between the Fiscal Year 2026 budget and the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2027. Each account group has several sub-accounts which are not shown for space reasons. A full breakdown of the budget can be viewed on the school's website: www.richmondconsolidatedschool.org

	FY 2026	FY 2027
School Committee Accounts	\$12,700	\$12,700
Superintendent Accounts	\$76,834	\$73,854
Special Education Accounts	\$576,221	\$350,512
Principal Accounts	\$213,107	\$221,268
Supply Accounts	\$38,000	\$38,000
Teaching Accounts	\$1,879,969	\$2,093,283
Library Services	\$13,200	\$13,200
Professional Development Accounts	\$24,800	\$24,800
Technology Accounts	\$27,500	\$27,500
Health Accounts	\$73,456	\$79,692
Transportation Accounts	\$295,226	\$335,286
Activity Advisor	\$22,500	\$22,500
Tuition Accounts	\$902,711	1,150,823
Food Service Supervisor	\$53,382	\$57,740
Operations & Maintenance Accounts	\$328,620	\$334,684
Employee Benefits and Insurance Accounts	\$698,501	\$693,154

Unemployment Accounts	\$5,000	\$5,000
Contingency Accounts	\$46,743	\$17,310
Total	\$5,288,470	\$5,551,305
Less School Choice, grants and pre-school revenue	\$695,474	\$669,000

Amount raised and appropriated by the Town **\$4,592,996** **\$4,882,305**
(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)

Article 11- To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of **\$20,000** for the reserve fund. With the approval of the Finance Committee the reserve fund is available to pay unanticipated and unbudgeted expenses that may occur during the fiscal year. (Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)

Article 12- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$20,000** to the reserve fund. This additional amount requested for the reserve fund is to provide a small buffer that might prevent an additional override ballot vote that could occur if a Special Town Meeting was needed during the fiscal year. (Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)

Article 13- To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of **\$6,000** for a fuel emergency assistance program. This is a fund that helps low-income Richmond residents in times of emergency. Each winter we are able to supplement the amount given to low-income residents who receive Federal fuel assistance funds through Berkshire County Community Action Council. (Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)

Article 14- To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of **\$5,000** for the treatment of weeds in Richmond Pond. (Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)

Article 15- To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of **\$2,140** to pay for prior fiscal year bills. (Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)

Article 16- This article proposes the creation of a Building Maintenance Stabilization Fund to help the Town plan and pay for major maintenance and repair needs of Town-owned buildings. Many of the Town's facilities—such as the Town Hall/Library, School, and Town Garage require periodic large-scale maintenance that cannot be covered within a single annual operating budget. Examples of these major expenses include roof replacement, parking lot paving, HVAC system upgrades, structural repairs, and other significant building system improvements. These projects tend to be costly, infrequent, and difficult to predict precisely from year to year. Establishing a dedicated Stabilization Fund allows the Town to set aside money gradually over time so that funds are available when these large maintenance needs arise. This approach reduces the impact on the annual budget, avoids sudden spikes in tax burden, and supports responsible long-term stewardship of Town assets. Any appropriation from this Stabilization Fund in the future would require a two-thirds vote of Town Meeting, ensuring continued oversight and transparency. (Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee) **TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED**

Article 17- This article seeks Town Meeting approval to make an initial contribution of

\$80,000 to the newly established Building Maintenance Stabilization Fund. The purpose of this appropriation is to begin setting aside resources for major maintenance and repair needs of Town-owned buildings. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

Article 18- To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$60,000 for the purchase of a pick-up truck. Our 2016 F250 is due for replacement on 10 year plan. It currently has 146,000 miles and is in need of repairs to cab corners and rocker panels. Replacement would reduce the number of breakdowns at critical times (snowstorms). No new training would be needed as this is a basic pickup truck and an in-kind replacement. This truck was due for replacement in FY2026, but we pushed it off for a year to reduce financial strain on prior year capital purchases. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

Article 19- To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of **\$16,500** to purchase a new lawnmower. The mower is used to mow all town lawns; School, four Cemeteries, Town Hall, Highway/Firehouse, Beach, and Boat Ramp. Town currently has two ride-on-mowers that this would replace. 2010 Exmark Laser 60- Town purchased in cooperation with school. 2012 Exmark Laser 48 purchased for Cemetery Department. New mower is rear discharge for two reasons; to avoid covering gravestones with clippings and, safety to operator by eliminating ricocheting debris back to operator station. Would keep one as a backup for breakdowns and as a second in case Highway needs to help Maintenance. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

Article 20- Temporary Repairs on Private Ways: \$6,500

To raise and appropriate the sum of **\$6,500** to make temporary repairs on private ways including roads which are part of Richmond Shores Association and Whitewood Association. This is required to be voted on separate from Town Budget every year. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

Article 21- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$56,080 from the FY27 receipts; Transfer \$19,500 from sewer retained earnings; and transfer \$170,301 from Sewer Betterments for a total of **\$245,881** to operate the Sewer Enterprise System. This budget funds the costs of operating the system as well as debt payments associated with the system's design and construction. All these costs are borne by the users of the system. The \$19,500 will be taken from Sewer Free Cash to help offset the expense increase to the City of Pittsfield, Emergency Reserves, as well as smoke testing. As part of our Sewer Agreement with Pittsfield, Richmond needs to demonstrate an effort to reduce Inflow & Infiltration (I/I). Sewer smoke testing is a simple but powerful method used to detect leaks, improper connections, and sources of unwanted water entering a sewer system. It is important because it helps protect public health, prevent sewer overflows, and reduce costly treatment of excess stormwater. By removing ground water from system we pump less to Pittsfield and aim to reduce waste costs. Sewer smoke testing involves pushing non toxic, odorless smoke into a sewer line under controlled pressure. Technicians then observe where the smoke exits the system. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

Article 22- Massachusetts General Law: Seasonal Community Designation

To see if the Town will vote to accept, on behalf of the Town of Richmond, the Seasonal

Community Designation as provided for in General Laws Chapter 23B, Section 32(b); or to take any other action relative thereto.

Question 1. On Ballot

Shall the Town of Richmond be allowed to assess an additional \$250,513 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of stabilizing the Town's budget and reserves and to continue to provide ongoing Town services across all departments, including our school, library, public safety, public works, and general government, for which the monies will be used for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026.

Yes vote approves the budget as presented at Town Meeting.

No vote means the Town will need to hold a Special Town Meeting to approve cuts of \$250,513 from the operating budgets of the Town and the School.

What is an Override? Proposition 2½ allows a community to assess taxes in excess of the automatic annual 2.5 percent increase and any increase due to new growth by passing an override. When an override is passed, the levy limit for the year is calculated by including the amount of the override. The override results in a permanent increase in the levy limit of a community, which is part of the levy limit base, and increases at the rate of 2.5 percent each year. Override ballot questions must be presented in dollar terms and must specify the purpose of the override.

How Much is the Override that has Been Proposed? The original override amount that was proposed in the first draft budget was \$471,905. Since that time all town and school stakeholders were informed of impending budget shortfall and asked for slimmer "Level-Service" budgets. The current proposed override budget is \$250,513. This is a general operational override split between the municipal government and the School in the amount of \$150,513 and an additional \$100,000 for reserves and Stabilization funding in the upcoming fiscal year.

Why Is Richmond Proposing an Override? State law requires towns to pass a balanced budget. Proposition 2 ½ limits the amount of revenue municipalities can raise through taxes year over year without an override. The cost of operations continue to outpace available revenues, and without an override service cuts will be required. Significant increases have been incurred in general insurance premiums, utility expenses, and the costs of goods and services. The School Department continues to experience steep cost increases in school transportation and Special Education out-of-district placements, among other increases. The Town switched third party insurance carrier to save money in health insurance, however, it has still increased 25.5% over the last two years. The cost to operate at current service levels exceeds current revenues by \$150,513. The Town of Richmond revenues are 73.4% from Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes, 6.31% from local receipts, 50% of which comes from Motor Vehicle Excise bills. Revenues to offset these costs are not increasing at the same pace. State aid, 11.72 % of the Town revenue has increased less than 1.5% the last 4 years and Federal grants have been cut by more than half.

What Has to Happen for the Override to Take Effect? For the override to take effect on July 1, 2026, a majority of voters will need to approve the override ballot question at the May 21, 2026 Annual Town Election.

What Happens if the Override Doesn't Pass? If the ballot question fails, the Town will have to have a Special Town Meeting to propose and approve a new budget under the override amount. That means the \$150,513 will be split between the School and Municipal budgets and the reserve increase and Stabilization funding will be removed. This will result in decreased service levels from what currently exists. On the Municipal side this will result in decreased services in public works, public safety, and general government. On the school side this will result in decreased services in educational programs. Any large unexpected expenses will force a spending freeze in all departments resulting in even more widespread levels of service disruptions.



TOWN DEPARTMENTS

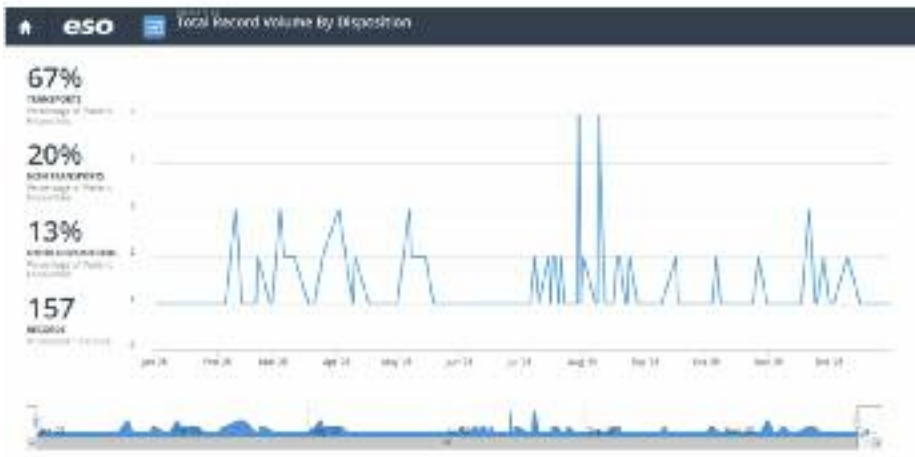




AMBULANCE

This year, the ambulance has continued to grow. As of July 1st, we have modified our staffing model to better serve the community. At that time, we increased our paid staff from two full-time employees to four. With the addition of 2 full-time employees, we were able to increase our paid staffing coverage from Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4 pm, to Monday through Friday, 7 am to 11 PM. We now also offer paid hours from 7 am to 11 pm on Saturdays and Sundays, with staffing dependent on our per diem and part-time staff.

Although overall we saw a decrease in calls for service, this additional staffing has allowed us to become increasingly self-sufficient and less dependent on the already overtaxed EMS system throughout Berkshire County. We remain grateful to our surrounding agencies for continuing to help, especially during unstaffed hours. This year, we saw 157 medical calls; of these, 90 percent resulted in our staff treating a patient, up from 83 percent the previous year.



The department's growth over the past two years depends on our community, and we are grateful for the continued support. We hope to continue growing as an agency and strive to provide the best possible care to the residents and visitors who frequent our town.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Schultz, B.S. EMT-P
Ambulance Director



BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The Board of Assessors, along with our assessing staff provided under contract by Regional Resource Group, continues to assure the fair taxation of all Richmond properties. Regional Resource Group came on board June 1, 2017 and is handling the day to day management of the office as well as evaluation and tax rate setting.

During the past year, we continued to reorganize and update assessment records. Our GIS/Public Access System is online and offers access to town maps, property record cards and sales information. Other efforts included inspecting property after building permits are processed, auditing property files for accuracy and completeness and updating map changes.

Our Board strives to build and maintain good public relations. We provide our residents with:

- Abutters lists required for any property additions or alterations;
- Mailings to those eligible for special tax classifications and exemptions;
- Assistance in completing forms for residents who are eligible for exemptions;
- Current property ownership information by processing registered deeds, name and address changes and other related information.
- Motor Vehicle Excise Abatements;
- Information on a host of tax and property assessment issues.

As the town's principal revenue generator, the Assessors continue to review properties subject to taxation. We plan to enhance tax revenues by:

- Identifying second homeowners and businesses whose personal property are subject to taxes;
- Making sure that new construction is monitored and assessed, and that property given a certificate of occupancy is correctly assessed and taxed accordingly;

Other office activities included:

- Processing parcel divisions and other map changes;
- Processing and reviewing all abatement requests;
- Processing personal property forms, chapter land applications, exemption applications;
- Preparing various Department of Revenue Reports.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Daigle, Chair
Richmond Board of Assessors



BOARD OF HEALTH

We are fortunate now, with our relationship to the Berkshire County Planning Commission, to have a representative who carries out many of the duties and functions formerly directly managed by members of the Board of Health. We have an agent, Valerie Bird, who not only performs most of these duties, but she has also enabled the Town to secure funds from permits for food trucks and any other commercial operations carried out within the Town's borders. Of course, this is in addition to the funds secured from permits required for septic systems and wells. This year we have collected just short of \$10,000.

It appears that the very informative and reasonable monthly medical newsletter, which has been written almost exclusively by Mehernosh Khan, MD, has been well received. This is available monthly on the Town website.

This year, the Board has been involved in working with the county to develop an emergency response program. This is ongoing and in progress. It is something that may not become evident, hopefully ever, to our Towns' people. These include exercises in various emergency situations that have been delegated to the county from the state in many instances. This is in conjunction with all the municipalities in our county.

Finally, with the pandemic behind us, it has been a "quiet" medical year as a town. It is our hope that this community will continue to respect the science, the proven need and value of traditional vaccinations, and thereby avoid an unnecessary outbreak of long forgotten, and possibly deadly illnesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurence D Cohen, Chairman



BOARD OF SELECTMEN / SEWER COMMISSIONERS

It continues to be an honor to serve the residents of Richmond as your Selectmen. This was another busy year and we continued to ensure that the Town remains an affordable and hospitable place to live.

Our new Town Hall / Library has proven to be just as successful as we all hoped. We have had more well attended Town Hall and Library programs and special events just as we had envisioned in the planning stages and this new building has become our center activity for our town residents.

Accomplishments and highlights of the past year include:

- Continued our ambulance service with full time staff. Appointed new FF/EMT staff members Heather Perkins, Megan Perry, Paxton Strout, and Bart Temple.
- Declined the Berkshire Hills invitation to enter into merger discussions at this time. This decision was based on the consensus recommendations and concerns expressed by the Finance Committee, School Committee, residents and teachers.
- Accepted resignations from the entire Conservation Committee members and appointed five new members (Tom Potter, James Rawson, Paula Patterson, Derek Sidma, and Paul Neuman) in their place.
- Accepted resignation from the Conservation Agent / Special Municipal Employee and appointed Franz Forester to that position.
- Accepted resignation of BOH member Linda Collins Mitchel and appointed Richard Berlin as interim member.
- Reached a resolution of the 2447 State road property. Taking of this blighted property is complete and the Town is in a position to sell or disposed of that property.
- Approved construction of the new roof over the Library door / book drop area to prevent snow and ice build-up in that area. Completion is imminent.
- Celebrated the retirement of Fire Chief Bill Bullett and welcomed our newly appointed Fire Chief Patrick Barry and Constable Steve Hunt.
- Continued our shared Fire Chief relationship with West Stockbridge and our Fire department.
- Received 30% Federal Solar Tax Credit from the IRS for our Town Hall / Library solar installation.

- Accepted gift from the Richmond Congregation Church of Scenic Picture taken by Paul Rocheleau.
- Removed many dead and diseased trees.
- Continued the Ramp Monitoring Program to keep Richmond pond Zebra Mussel free.
- Procured a boat washing station for the boat ramp area.
- Maintained a strong relationship with our State Police. They continue to serve our Town well.

Reviewed and approved:

- 17 special permits and or licenses,
- 31 Short Term Rentals
- 2 Eversource pole hearings
- 2 Driveway permits

Entered into a Municipal Aggregation 36-month agreement for the lowest electrical utility rate. Residents can opt in or out on a monthly basis as they choose.

Switched town notification system from Onsolve(code red) to GO Gov.

Continued to advocate for our Town by working with the community, noting the availability of good homes, focusing on the success of our Town Hall / Library and School, the attraction of Richmond for young families with children, access that the town residents have to culture, entertainment and shopping.

We thank all the hard-working employees, elected, and appointed officials who help to make Richmond the town that we are all proud of. Town administrator Danielle Fillio has been with us for nearly a decade and we are very pleased with the atmosphere she has created and hope that she'll be with us for a long time. It remains our goal to have the entire Town Staff maintain a welcoming and positive posture. It isn't always easy; however, it is always a pleasure to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Manzolini, Chairman

Alan Hanson

Neal Pilson

Board of Selectmen/Sewer Commissioners



BUILDING DEPARTMENT

For the calendar year 2025 the Town of Richmond approved 124 building permits.

Cross payments from permits: \$27,950.00

• New Homes	4
• Additions	18
• Renovations	22
• Roofing	16
• Wood Stoves	8
• Windows/doors/siding	15
• Insulation	14
• Tents	12
• Misc	15

If you have any questions or are unsure if you need a permit, please feel free to call me at 413-446-0964.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Greene
Richmond Building Inspector





CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT

The Town of Richmond had a total of eleven burials and two plot sales in 2025. All activity took place in Center Cemetery.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Beckwith, Jr.
Cemetery Department





CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The mission of the Richmond Conservation Commission is to administer the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and Regulations (MGL C.131 Sec.40 and 310 CMR 10.00), the Richmond Local Wetland Bylaw (Ch. XII) and the Richmond Regulations adopted under the Berkshire Scenic Mountains Act (MGL Ch.131 Sec.39A). The Commission serves to protect and conserve the quality of the environment, fisheries and wildlife habitat, and aesthetics of the Town by regulating activities that could negatively impact sensitive resource areas, including wetlands, streams and ponds, riparian areas, steep slopes and mountain tops.

The Commission reviewed the following between 6.1.2025 – 12.30.2025

Wetland Protection Act (WPA)		Scenic Mountain Act (SMA)	
Request for Determination (RDA)	11	Request for Determination (RDA)	0
Notice of Intent (NOI)	2	Notice of Intent (NOI)	0
Certificate of Compliance (COC)	3	Certificate of Compliance (COC)	1
Emergency Permits	3	Emergency Permits	0
Enforcement Orders	0	Enforcement Orders	0
Order of Conditions Ext./Amends	1	Order of Conditions Ext./Amend	0

Wetland Protection Act & Richmond Local Wetland Bylaw - Requests for Determination of Applicability (RDA). These requests involve site visits by Commission members and deliberations by the Commission following presentation by the applicant. In each case, the Commission makes a determination whether the request is jurisdictional and if a Notice of Intent needs to be submitted.

Wetland Protection Act & Richmond Local Wetland Bylaw - Notice of Intent (NOI) is a more extensive presentation of proposed work impacting resource areas, including detailed calculations of impacts, often including complex engineered solutions. In the most complex cases, the Commission has the authority to require applicants to provide for independent consultants to advise the Commission and to suggest special Order of Conditions.

Emergency Certifications have frequently been issued by the Commission to protect human health/safety and public property. Most of these have involved work to control and/or limit damage to ensure public safety.

The Commission is an advisor when called upon by the Board of Selectmen or Zoning Board of Appeals concerning applications for Special Permits, Variances or Appeals of earlier decisions by other Town authorities.

Resident Education & Assistance: The Commission would like to ask all property owners to use the resources of the Commission to educate themselves on the Wetlands and Scenic Mountains regulations.

Through education, the Commission can help residents execute projects while safeguarding the environment.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioners:

Jaime Rawson - Chair

Paul Neumann

Paula M. Patterson

Tom Potter

Derek Sipma



COUNCIL ON AGING

The Richmond Council on Aging, in cooperation with the West Stockbridge Council on Aging, provides diverse services to the senior population of Richmond and West Stockbridge. The Council remains committed to the health and well-being of Richmond/West Stockbridge seniors.

The 2025 monthly newsletter published by the COA Director, Heather Lorange, provided an ongoing source of important information on topics of particular interest to seniors, as well as announcements of upcoming special events hosted by the COA.

The COA was able to host the following events:

- Weekly Exercise Classes: Yoga, Tai Chi, Strength, Line Dance
- Weekly Mahjongg
- Monthly Paper Folding Classes
- Tuesday Talk Informational Sessions
- Annual one-time Hip-Hop Dance Chair Exercise Class and Smooth R&B Hip-Hop Line Dance Class (thanks to a grant from the Richmond Cultural Council)
- Monthly blood pressure clinics provided by Berkshire Alliance
- Annual flu vaccine clinics provided by Berkshire Alliance
- Farmers' Market Coupons
- Annual Summer Luncheon with music bingo
- Annual Winter Holiday Luncheon with holiday music bingo. A special thank you to our luncheon servers!
- Trip collaboration/information share with other local COAs
- Consultations with Elder Services of Berkshire County's SHINE Program to assist with insurance
- Special Friends of the Third Grade Program. Richmond seniors match with Richmond Consolidated School third graders to encourage interaction between the two age groups. The group meets monthly at school for a planned activity and lunch, designed to broaden mutual understanding.
- Valentine's Day collaboration with Richmond Consolidated School to send hand made Valentines to seniors
- Appointment Transportation via COA van

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Lorange, COA Director
Ms. Patricia Malnati
Ms. Linda Mitchell
Ms. Joanna Stengel



CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Richmond Cultural Council Announces Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant Awards

The Richmond Cultural Council, the local representative of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, announces grant allocations for 2026 programs in Richmond and the Berkshires. The council had an allocation of \$8,842 in available funds for 2026. For the 2026 grant cycle the council received 39 grant applications totaling over \$26,000 in funding requests. Grants were allocated to thirteen of the thirty-nine applicants. Massachusetts Cultural Council funding will also support a “Richmond Open Garden and Studio Day: Exploring Neighbors’ Creativity”.

This event is organized and presented by the Richmond Cultural Council. A date for this event is forthcoming and anticipated for September 2026. Parties interested in opening up their garden or studio should reach out to the Richmond Cultural Council at richmondmaculturalcouncil@gmail.com.

A significant portion of grant allocation will support enrichment and experiences in visual art, history, music, dance, and performance for Richmond Consolidated School students in a variety of programs. BTG PLAYS! School Residency Program. Music For Young Minds: The Woodwind Quintet in collaboration with the Berkshire Music School. The school will also present an Introduction to Dance Residency, with lessons by Berkshire Pulse. School Garden Program with Berkshire Botanical Garden. The ARTcentric after-school program by the Berkshire Art Center offers hands-on art studio experiences. Spain Exchange. The RCS Middle School chorus and concert band, grades 6-8, will participate in the Great East Music Festival in Springfield. African Rooted Drum and Dance, with Gaia Roots.

In the Richmond community, RCC grants will also support the following programs. A Recital of American Music for Trombone will be presented by Ronald Barron and an ensemble of musicians at the Richmond Congregational Church. For Richmond seniors, Hip Hop R&B Line and Chair Dance exercise sessions will be held in conjunction with the Council on Aging. Eyes on Owls (live animal presentation) at the Richmond Free Public Library for all ages. The Richmond Record will also receive funding support this year.

In the Berkshires, RCC funding will also help support the Learning with W.E.B. Du Bois: Exploring Black History and Local Heritage in the Berkshires at the Du Bois Freedom Center, Berkshire Nature Talk Series, at the West Stockbridge Historical Society; Festival Latino of the Berkshires, in Great Barrington; the 2026 Fall Festival of Shakespeare at Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, for local high school students; Multidisciplinary Art Salon with Seeing Rainbows Inc; Take 1: Dance on Film Festival with Tom Truss; Hilltown Families Suggests, a regional family friendly Arts and Culture directory; and music at the West

Stockbridge Farmers Market.

The Richmond Cultural Council is committed to providing cultural opportunities for our local community, prioritizing Richmond residents and students. Our goal is to support cultural events within the school, town, and county for all ages and to encourage a community passion for the arts, humanities, and science in all its forms. The RCC is also committed to supporting programs that elevate historically marginalized communities.

Respectfully submitted by:

Bridgette Stone, Chair

Jaclyn Sinay, Treasurer

Amity Winters, Publicity

Amanda Hale, Publicity

Jessy Turner, Grants Coordinator

Jenny Baltazar, Member





DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The winter of 2024/2025 went as follows:

- November: 2" snowfall, first accumulation on 11/28. High of 75, Low 22, Average 41.
- December: 5.25" snowfall. High of 58, Low -7, Average 27.
- January: 8.5" snowfall. High 41, Low -16, Average 20.
- February: 13.25" snowfall. High 50, Low -2, Average 23.
- March: 2.5" snowfall, High 68, Low 8, Average 37.
- April: 4.4" snowfall, last accumulation on 4/12, High 79, Low 22, Average 46.

In April, the Highway Department performed spring cleanup, fixed roadsides, gravel roads and chipped fallen debris.

Throughout May and June, grading of the town's 20 miles of gravel roads plus an additional mile of private roads was achieved. This process involved using the grader to rip up the road and lay it back out to a proper crown. A tractor followed with a road rake to remove large rocks and give a fine finish. The roadways were rolled using a rented 12-ton vibratory roller. The process was completed with the spraying of an environmentally safe Magnesium chloride base dust control.

July through October crews worked on general roadside maintenance including mowing roadsides, reshaping and cleaning out storm drainage, and filling potholes.

Our focus throughout November and December was to prepare and get all winter equipment installed and working to its best ability for the upcoming snow season.

In October the Highway Crew welcomed new member, Darin Torrey. Darin came to Richmond after 17 years with City of Pittsfield.

I would like to thank the Richmond Highway & Maintenance Staff, Garrett Barsalou, Brett Smith, Robert Hammer and Darin Torrey for their dedication and hard work.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Beckwith, Jr.
Highway Superintendent



FENCE VIEWERS

The fence viewers were not called this year to help resolve any fence-line dispute. Given that there were no calls is indicative of Richmond's good neighbor relationships for which we are grateful. Your fence viewers are available to help resolve any agricultural fence line dispute; however, determining property boundaries (lines) is not within our job description. Should you encounter a fence-line issue, please call and we'll do whatever we can to bring about a solution. Also, a good rule to remember is that any agricultural fence line between two property owners is the responsibility, equally, of both property owners; and that if a case is taken to court, the ruling will be just that.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Manzolini

Alan Hanson

Neal Pilson

Fence Viewers



FIELD DRIVERS

2025 was a quiet year for the field drivers. All Richmond's cows, horses, sheep, and other animals remained contained in their respective pens and we were not called into action. Thanks to all residents for keeping your animals contained in their pastures and pens.

A field driver position remains open to anyone interested in having fun when you least expect it!

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Hanson

Roger Manzolini

Field Drivers



FINANCE COMMITTEE

As elected officials, the Finance Committee is responsible to represent taxpayers' interest in the finances of the town. The most significant duty is to advise and make recommendations to the annual Town Meeting on the budget and other areas of finance. The Committee also has a statutory authority to make transfers from the Town's reserve fund (a modest contingency fund created as part of the annual budget; \$20,000 in recent years) for extraordinary or unforeseen occurrences. The Committee and the Selectmen also approve minor budget transfers during the last two months of the fiscal year and the first two months of the new fiscal year in order to close out the Town's fiscal year financial records.

In Richmond, the Finance Committee and the Selectmen work together as the Budget Advisory Committee to review and refine each fiscal year's budget. Our Town Administrator, Danielle Fillio works with department managers, as needed, to prepare a first draft of their operating and capital budgets. Danielle has an innate understanding of Richmond's financial limitations and prepares budgets accordingly. She then puts department budgets together in spreadsheets and notebooks, schedules sessions with department heads for select budget presentations and advocates for spending and savings initiatives. The Budget Advisory Committee carefully considers all budget requests, provides suggestions and guidance and ultimately the Finance Committee votes to recommend for approval (or recommend not to approve) all line items and financial articles to Town voters at the Annual Town Meeting in May.

FY26's Operating and Capital budgets were reviewed over five meetings beginning on February 12, and concluding on March 19.

The School Committee's budget continues to be the single largest expenditure in the Town's budget (approximately 2/3 of our operating budget). In addition to funding Richmond Consolidated Schools Pre-K - 8 classes, their budget also funds tuition for high school students to attend high school in Lenox, Monument Mountain or Pittsfield High Schools. The School budget also funds special education services and tuition. As has been customary, after reviewing the initial budget presented by the School administration, the Budget Advisory Committee asks them to reduce the amount requested in their warrant article. Last year, they were able to reduce their initial budget request to present to the voters a budget resulting in a 4.2% increase.

The FY26 budget, approved by voters, included a 2.7% increase in total Departmental and Unclassified budgets with an increase of 6.7% in Articles to be raised from property taxes.

At the direction of the Selectmen, the Committee also reviewed two models estimating the financial impact of a possible merger of our school with Berkshire Hills Regional School District (BHRSD). One model was prepared and presented by BHRSD, the other model was prepared internally. While the models differed in process and assumptions, the results were consistent with an estimated \$200,000 in first year savings derived primarily

from a state subsidy for transportation, which independent town schools do not receive. Savings beyond the first year were difficult to estimate with any confidence. While a \$200,000 savings is significant to our budget, we concluded that it was not significant enough to justify the disruption it would cause to our school community. The uncertainty of the long-term costs of a merger with BHRSD was also a big factor in our recommendation not to proceed with next steps. We did, however, suggest that the matter be periodically revisited to determine if circumstances change.

The Committee will need to pay particular attention to two unfavorable conditions as we try to put together the FY27 budget. The first is the significant decrease in the amount of free cash available to use as a funding source for FY27 spending. Free cash is an amount calculated by the town and certified by the state. It is derived from actual receipts in excess of revenue estimates and unspent amounts in departmental line items in the fiscal year just ended. The amount of free cash available to use in the FY26 budget was \$627,829. We used \$620,000 of free cash to pay one-time expenditures, fund a portion of a new fire truck and to replenish reserve funds. Unfortunately, the amount of free cash available for the FY27 budget decreased dramatically to \$121,603. This along with a reduced Excess Levy Capacity (discussed below) will make it difficult to avoid a Proposition 2 ½ override vote.

At the Assessor's Annual Tax Classification hearing in December 2025 the Excess Levy Capacity, (the amount property taxes can go up above 2 ½% without the need for an override vote) was calculated to be \$80,723 for FY26. This compares to \$161,036 for FY25.

Avoiding an override is becoming more difficult every year due to budget pressures from health insurance increases, increasing special education expenses and the need to remain competitive with employee wages.

In early 2026, the Committee will be saying goodbye to Bob Youdelman who is moving to Dalton. Bob has been a valuable member since being appointed to fill a vacant seat in 2018. We will miss his experience and wise counsel.

The Committee would once again thank all Town employees for their efforts throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Gniadek, Chair
Pat Callahan
Eileen Martin
Stevan Patterson
Bob Youdelman



FIRE DEPARTMENT

This year the Richmond Fire Department responded to 286 Fire/EMS calls. The lower amount of calls is due to fact that W. Stockbridge is no longer affiliated with Richmond.

In January 2025, Chief Traver stepped down as Chief. We would like to thank Chief Traver for his years of service and dedication to the Town of Richmond, as well as Hancock and W. Stockbridge. Chief Gerry Cahalan was asked to step in as Interim Fire Chief in the absence of Steve.

Richmond Fire, through the support of the Town, acquired a new fire pumper. This 2025 Toyne Pumper boasts a 1000 Gal water tank and a 1500GPM pump at a cost of \$797,000 and was purchased as a DEMO. The actual value of this pumper is 1.2 -1.4 Million dollars. This replaced a 1990's KME pumper that was aged out and deemed unsafe by mechanics. The department also upgraded its Vehicle Extrication Tools, replacing an aged out antiquated set of Jaws of Life.

The department struggles with personnel. As volunteerism in general is dropping in the county, the demographics in Richmond do not help. There is no pool of personnel to pull from, many of the members are responding from Pittsfield.

In an attempt to keep the community safe and also to continue to run the ambulance, the department has four full-time members the cover Mon- Fri 7a - 11pm. There is also funding to cover the same hours on the weekends, Its very frustrating to have the funding and pay a competitive salary and still not be able to find personnel to work, a sign of the times.

That being said, The Richmond Fire Department, supported by the Richmond Volunteer Fire, Inc., is always looking for Call/Volunteer persons, If you are interested in helping your community and assist in creating a cohesive environment and tradition, stop by on a Monday night or contact anyone in the department. We would love to have you.

We are also looking for Per Diem/Part-Time EMT's to fill Sick/Vacation hours and to also cover the open shifts for ambulance/FF positions.

We would like to thank our mutual aid departments, The Richmond Highway Department and the Massachusetts State Police as well las the citizens of Richmond for their support.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Cahalan, Chief



FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

In 2025, the Richmond Free Public Library welcomed over 100 new patrons. We currently have 834 patrons with Richmond as their home library and throughout the year 1,570 people attended our programs. We continue to be open 6 days and 34 hours each week, and we were open 8 additional summer hours during our busiest season. For homebound patrons, the library offers delivery service.

Through collection development and access to statewide materials via Interlibrary Loan, the Richmond Free Public Library circulated (including renewals) 14,727 physical items including: audio books, books, Library of Things items, magazines, museum passes, music CDs and videos. Books were our highest circulating format with 11,348 circulations.

Our ongoing adult programs included: a monthly book discussion, a monthly film discussion led by Madelyn Ritrosky, a weekly fiber arts club guided by Candy Mountain, and a weekly drop-in tech help ran by Destiny Easler. Our adult programs included: two programs featuring Dr. Mehernosh Khan, a volunteer reception and retirement celebration for Candy Mountain, a cyber cleaning workshop, our annual summer indoor picnic hosted by Holly Freadman and Nanci McConnell, and an identity theft protection workshop facilitated by Rebecca Sorrentino. Along with Jane Austen enthusiasts, our book discussion group celebrated Jane Austen's 250th birthday on December 16th. We maintain a collection box where patrons can donate staple foods for weekly delivery by Judy and Larry Gordon to a Pittsfield food pantry. Tora Huntington keeps townspeople informed of our activities through the library's page in the Richmond Record.

The Lively World Series, which is an author/lecture series in memory of Milton Bass facilitated by Ruth Bass, brought special guests to our library. Our Lively World guests included:

- Documentary filmmaker and educator Kate Way
- Michael Bass who updated a previously unpublished book by Milton Bass
- Author Deborah J. Benoit and Poet Leslie Klein
- Zach Adams and Chip Blake

Programs for all ages included: Meet the Mighty Minis (miniature ponies) and Rhonda's Reptiles (a live animal program funded by the Richmond Cultural Council). The library also collaborated with Rachel Kanz from Richmond Consolidated School to bring a felted acorn workshop to our community.

Programs for children included: an origami craft time for tweens guided by Angeli Faggioni, Richmond Reads (a weekly story hour conducted by South Berkshire Kids), our Independent Summer Reading Program and a bi-monthly Read to Milo reading program where children were able to read to Milo, a therapy dog. We also held two special programs, the

Musical Petting Zoo and The Poop Museum.

We wish to thank our volunteers for their many hours spent on behalf of the library in 2025. We also wish to thank the Town Hall and Highway Department staff as well as the Friends of the Richmond Library, the Select Board and the Finance Committee for their ongoing support.

2025 library Trustees:

Katherine Keenum, Nanci McConnell and Kathryn Wilson.

2025 library staff:

Carol Chapman (*substitute*), Deborah Evans (*substitute*), Angeli Faggioni,

Kathy Korte (*volunteer and substitute*), Candy Mountain, Madelyn Ritrosky and Kristin Smith.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Smith
Library Director





FRIENDS OF THE RICHMOND LIBRARY

The Friends of the Richmond Library is a 501(c) 3 Ch.180 tax exempt corporation whose sole purpose is to support and enhance library service for the Richmond Free Public Library by fundraising and volunteering.

As of the end of December 2025 we had one hundred three members. The Annual Meeting for the Friends is held on the second Saturday in May. All members are encouraged to attend because this is their opportunity to voice their opinions and set the direction the Friends will take in the coming year. In addition the board meets virtually via email to discuss projects and purchases for the library throughout the year.

The board members in 2025 were:

Candy Mountain	– President	Kathryn Wilson	– Clerk
Jan Hartford	– Vice President	Christine Grenoble	– Member at large
Nanci McConnell	– Treasurer	Melissa Roller	– Member at large

This year we finished up purchasing furniture for the new library. We bought new interior window shades and reupholstered the bench by the front door and bought two new dark gray chairs similar to the ones in the town hall lobby. Furniture for the library is now essentially complete.

Other activities included purchasing seasonal raffle baskets. Every time a patron comes to the library, they have an opportunity to put a ticket in the can for a chance to “win” the seasonal basket. This is not a fund raiser but just a bit of fun for the library’s patrons.

We also provide the Library with extra funds for programming, although we do not get involved with specific programs.

The library’s collection of Museum Passes is also one of our projects. Providing funds for museum passes is a common way that a Friends group can support their library. We also, bought new items for the Library of Things, bought a new “Work Horse” printer and we provided a basket with phone/computer/tablet chargers incase patrons need to charge their devices while they are in the library.

We raised money by selling Richmond photo cards, Crane cards, 01254 hats, our annual membership drive, the sale of bags donated by Blue Q and sales from our book sale cart.

We also sent financial support to the annual Library Legislative Breakfast.

Respectfully submitted,

Candy Mountain
Friends of the Richmond Library President



Library Time Line Highlights

- 1892 - The Richmond Free Public Library is established. The Rev. T.C. Luce is Librarian and the books are kept in the parsonage's study.
- 1902 - Mrs. Abbie Barnes is appointed Librarian and the books are moved to her living room.
- 1908 - First year library rent is recorded.- \$70.00 to Mrs. Barnes for care and rent for the library.
- 1914 - Abbie Barnes dies. Ida Barnes is appointed Librarian.
- 1933 - A tea party is held on the library lawn
- 1937 - The four rural schools are closed and the new Consolidated School is opened in September. School is just south of the library.
- 1943 - Ida H. Barnes resigns due to illness.
It is hoped that the town will vote to build a wing on the new school for the library.
- 1943 - Books are moved to the south room of the Consolidated School, with the understanding that this arrangement is only for the duration of the war.
- 1944 - Katherine Annin appointed librarian.
- 1946 - Committee appointed at Town Meeting to plan for new library building. Which was approved, but no money was appropriated.
- 1946 - Francis Wright appointed librarian.
- 1948 - Library moved from school to the Moore house. Library room needed for classes.
- 1959 - Library moves to the basement of the Consolidated School. Library closed for 6 months.
- 1960 - Library reopens in new room in the Consolidated School.
- 1964 - Francis Wright retires.
- 1964 - Katherine Annin reappointed librarian.
- 1965 - Mrs. Jane Hooker is hired as assistant.
- 1967 - Library hires part time typists.
- 1969 - A new checkout desk is acquired.
- 1971 - School committee needs the library space for classrooms. Library future uncertain.
- 1973 - Library is moved to two upstairs rooms on the north side of the Consolidated School.
- 1975 - Katherine Annin retires.
- 1975 - Barbara Rawson is appointed librarian.
- 1979 - Library closed for month of January, for weeding of the adult collection. The rooms are also insulated and a drop ceiling installed.
- 1987 - "Project Caring" grant received, books on tape, music and tape players purchased.
- 1989 - School Library Program ended cause of lack of funds.
- 1990 - Barbara Rawson Brouker retires.
- 1990 - Rebecca O. Spencer appointed Director.
- 1990 - Bookmobile visits cut back to every 9 weeks.
- 1992 - English Author Lynn Reid Banks comes to Richmond Free Public Library.
- 1992 - Rebecca Spencer resigns.



Library Time Line Highlights continued

- 1992 - Lynn G. Sciacca appointed library Director.
- 1993 - Lynn G. Sciacca resigns.
- 1993 - Mary Ann Sicotte appointed Director.
- 1993 - Candy Mountain hired as Assistant Director.
- 1993 - School Library program reinstated.
- 1995 - Completion of the first Long Range Plan.
- 1996 - Library moved from school to former gas station/ craft shop. School needed the room the library was in for classes.
- 1996 - The Friends of the Richmond Library is established.
- 1996 - Mary Ann Sicotte resigns.
- 1996 - Candy Mountain appointed Acting Director. 1996 - Rebecca Spencer reappointed Director.
- 1997 - Library collection is automated. 1997 - Rebecca Spencer resigns.
- 1997 - Candy Mountain appointed Acting Director. 1997 - Lauren Losaw appointed Director.
- 1999 - The Municipal Facilities Committee formed in July begins the steps to plan for a new library building.
- 2000 - Lauren Losaw resigns.
- 2000 - Architect Steve Barry presents the design for new library.
- 2000 - A. Luke Olivieri appointed Director. 2000 - A. Luke Olivieri resigns.
- 2001 - Candy Mountain reappointed Acting Director. State does not approve new library building plan.
- 2002 - Library becomes a mini-net member of CWMARS.
- 2003 - Kristin Smith is appointed Director. Library begins circulating items on-line.
- 2005 - Library receives a grant from the employees of GE Advanced Materials presented by John Krenecki, for children's programs. The library/town hall vote failed at town meeting.
- 2006 - Wireless internet is installed at the library. The former J&J Books space is added to the library space.
- 2010 - Kristin on leave - Candy Mountain appointed Acting Director for 6 months..
- 2015 - "The Lively World Series" is initiated, in memory of Milton Bass.
- 2016 - Library reconfigured by downsizing the book sale area, expanding the fiction, creating a new non-fiction area and creating a Richmond Historical Nook.
- 2017 - Library celebrates it's 125th year.
- 2021 - Town approves the development of a new Town Hall, Library and Community Center
- 2022 - Town approves extra funds to complete the new Town Hall/Library/Community Center
- 2023 - Library moves in to its brand new space.
- 2025 - Candy Mountain retires after 32 years of service.



HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Richmond Historical Commission is a requirement of the Massachusetts State Government. We are appointed by the selectmen for a three-year term, rotated by members of the Committee.

Our mission is to help promote the history of Richmond, and the many things it is made of. To help preserve the things known and the things to be discovered, including houses, landscapes, cemeteries, and photos.

We are always looking for new information about the town and its people, houses and how it has changed Richmond's history.

Most of the time individual members are working on projects on an individual basis.

The M.A.C.R.S., Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information Files System Database, is now top priority for our commission. We are updating the older forms from the 1970's and are adding more houses as they turn 50 years old. This takes time and we are in need of a person or person's who can help us with these forms. More new information is now available to be added to the forms. This is now a top priority from Massachusetts Historical Commission.

We have helped set the flags at the Veterans' graves and also removed them, adding markers as needed. We thank the people who have helped us do this.

We have done the September Housatonic Walk with the Richmond Historical Society, having a good turnout of interested people.

We have answered many questions about people who might have lived in Richmond, being either born, married or died here. There also have been questions about some of the older houses and what we know about them. It can be very interesting in what we do find.

We are always willing to look up your questions and see what we can find.

We are in need of several new members, and several skills are needed, one being computer skills. Also, people who have the time and energy and interest to put into working on projects with the history of Richmond.

Freida Pilson resigned at the end of the year; we thank her for her time with us.

Current members are William and Allison Edwards, Melanie Masda-Dignum, and Gloria Morse.



A.W. Howes, Photo, 1903, Wm.& Mabel Anthony

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Morse, Chair





HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2025 - Our Thirty Third Year

OUR PURPOSE: *“To promote and foster a greater knowledge and appreciation of the history of the Town of Richmond, Massachusetts, through research, lectures, exhibits, acquisitions and preservation of historical materials, sites, and other means.”*

At our annual meeting and election of officers Gloria Morse gave a talk and slide presentation titled “Memories of the Richmond Meeting House/Church and the Many People Who Made Them.”

The Northeast Schoolhouse is open one day each month throughout the summer for tours with a changing photo exhibit.

One of our monthly tours was arranged by Kristin Smith as an after-school tour of the Northeast Schoolhouse.

We participated in one Housatonic Heritage tour at the schoolhouse.

We have two flowerpots in the front entrance maintained by Joyce Phelps.

Society members and volunteers place flags on our veterans’ graves for Memorial Day.

The Richmond Church has entrusted to our care documents that date back to 1787 when the Town owned the land and the building that was called the Meeting House, before it became separated from the Town of Richmond, becoming Richmond Congregational Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Officers:

William Edwards, President
Gloria Morse, Vice President
Joyce Phelps, Treasurer
Janice Hartford, Secretary

Board Members:

Paul Dyson
Michael Esposito
Kristin Smith
Carol Stephens
Stedman Stephens



PLANNING BOARD

A major change came to the Planning Board in calendar year 2025. After four decades of invaluable service, John Hanson retired in May. Justin Winters was elected to fill the vacant seat.

From January through April, the Board worked on an amendment to bring Richmond's Zoning By-law into conformity with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A, Section 3, as it applies to the construction of accessory dwelling units. After a Public Hearing, the Board completed the draft and voted to send the proposed amendment to the Board of Selectmen with a recommendation that it be presented to the voters.

The Board accepted one "Form B: Application for Approval of Preliminary Plan" toward the subdivision of a property. In this case, a road would need to be built in order to meet the frontage requirement of the Zoning By-Law. A Public Hearing was held as one of the steps necessary for the case to be moved toward a Definitive Subdivision Plan.

The Board advised another landowner on options in a similar case. A third landowner was referred to the Board of Appeals about replacing an old barn with a newer structure.

No plans for subdivision of land by right (so-called ANR's) and no site plans for new construction were submitted for Planning Board review.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Bruce, Chairman

Richard Bell

Katherine Keenum, Clerk

Peter Lopez, Vice Chairman

Jonathan Winters, Delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission



POLICE CHIEF

In accordance with the Massachusetts gun control act of 1998, Chief Bullett and I processed 54 license applications between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025. We processed 5 new and 49 renewal license applications for all Richmond residents that applied. We currently serve 256 license holders.

We coordinated traffic details with other departments when the state police were unable to supply coverage. We handled correspondence from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and other agencies, and tended to other administrative matters.

We coordinated the staffing of election details with constables, and the posting of warrants. Many thanks to Constable John Ryan for his support and cooperation in the posting of town warrants and election day coverage. Constable Eric (Rick) Latimer passed away this year, and we miss him. He served the town faithfully for decades as a constable.

Chief Bullett retired on 31 October in his 26th year as chief of police. He also served as a constable during those years, and for some years before his appointment as chief. He was a friend and mentor to me, and I will miss him. I was honored to be appointed to fill his shoes.

Many thanks to the Massachusetts State Police for their continued quick response and the professional handling of all the towns' law enforcement needs.

I will gladly meet with any resident, as needed, to obtain permits, answer questions, or assist in any other way I can. I look forward to continuing to serve Richmond as your chief of police.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick F. Barry
Chief of Police





RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Richmond Recreation Committee (RRC) reports this year with members: Jeff Konowitch (Chair), Mike Harke (secretary), Brad Havill, Andy Leeco and Julia Sabourin. Our youth basketball program is running on Saturday mornings with a small but enthusiastic group of students. We appreciate our coaches Ryan Sawyer, Sean McLaughlin and Bryant Turner.

RCS continued a volleyball program for Richmond students for both beginners and some that are more advanced. Eric Smith and Rick Saupe are the coaches with Andy Leeco and Jess Jezak are helping as assistant coaches. We are hoping to add a third team this fall.

Julia Sabourin uses the indoor space for a young group of lacrosse players.

We are again in planning mode for the 15th Ping Pong tourney this spring.

Pickle Ball and Tennis are still a well-used space on the tennis courts.

The RRC wants to encourage all to get out and take advantage of the beautiful outdoor spaces that the town of Richmond has to offer. Once again, we received great collaboration with RCS and Superintendent/Principal Dr. Beth Choquette, the ever-helpful Natalie Gingras and of course Tammy Jervas the incredible chef of the school and the school custodians Alex Girard and Tall Paul.

We would like to thank the Selectmen and School Committee for keeping our children safe throughout the year and helping us to run all our programs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Konowitch, Chairman



RICHMOND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

It is with deep gratitude that I share highlights from the 2024–2025 school year at Richmond Consolidated School. Serving this community continues to be an honor, and I am thankful for the dedicated staff, engaged students, and supportive families who make our school a place where every child is known, valued, and supported.

During the 2024–2025 school year, our work was guided by the School Improvement Plan and its Theory of Action, which focused on strengthening relationships, improving attendance, using data to support academic growth, and embedding culturally responsive and trauma-informed practices. Key structures, including intervention blocks, advisory time, and elective offerings, supported students academically and socially while fostering meaningful connections and opportunities for exploration in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics.

Through engagement with staff, families, community members, and students, we established a clear Vision and Mission and a shared Portrait of a Learner that defines the skills, dispositions, and values we want all Richmond students to develop. This work, along with the adoption of the motto Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow and our Dragon mascot, has strengthened our school identity and now guides instructional practices, improvement planning, and budget priorities.

Instructional coherence continued through the implementation of our K–8 reading curriculum, a new K-8 math curriculum, and grades 5–8 social studies and civics curriculum, with Universal Design for Learning (UDL) supporting inclusive and accessible classrooms. Professional development throughout the year aligned to these priorities and strengthened our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS).

The 2025–2026 School Improvement Plan builds directly on this foundation and focuses on the strategic priorities of the new 2025–2026 Strategic Plan. Its Theory of Action emphasizes strengthening MTSS across academic, behavioral, and social-emotional domains; deepening fidelity of UDL implementation; fostering a Culture of Care grounded in trust, belonging, and shared responsibility; strengthening family partnerships; and maintaining safe, well-supported learning environments.

Richmond Consolidated School continues to serve as a hub of community connection through events such as Trunk or Treat, the Veterans Day Luncheon, and the Thanksgiving Dinner. Facilities improvements continue with ongoing planning to assess long-term needs and enhance accessibility. The campus enhancement project committee continues collaborative efforts to expand outdoor learning and play spaces.

Our budget priorities align with the 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, reflecting our core values of embracing diversity and respect, fostering a community of lifelong learners, and nurturing a culture of care and support. Richmond is a unique and exceptional town, and I am grateful for the trust and partnership of this community as we continue this important work together.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth N. Choquette, Ed.D



RICHMOND LAND TRUST

The Richmond Land Trust goals for 2025 included increasing community awareness of land preservation, networking with local farmers, and maintaining lands under RLT care for generations to come. Our annual Pie Social held on the Clark Family Farm highlighted the year as Richmond residents gathered to enjoy the sweeping views and an afternoon of community spirit and of course, pie. The Clark farm is just one example of maintained farm land which allows us to enjoy the distinctive vistas which makes Richmond, Richmond.

The Land Trust is happy to report that it maintains 1,412 acres of protected land in Richmond as of this calendar year. This acreage is primarily held in Conservation Restrictions which guarantees land will stay protected from development and left in its natural splendor for years to come. Working with the Berkshire Natural Resource Council continues to be a large part of the RLT mission and we are grateful for their support and expertise.

Goals for this upcoming year are continuing with our mission, preserving Richmonds's rural character through land conservation and thoughtful development, as well as creating a local scholarship which reflects our mission of land conservation. As we look towards the next generation of Richmond youth we continue to ensure that natural spaces are cherished and protected.

Thank you to the generosity and support of all community members. The collective energy of conservation minded folk has ensured the success of the Richmond Land Trust since its inception in 1989. We are looking forward to new endeavors and energy in 2026 and encourage community members to reach out with inquiries or ideas to the members of our team.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Augur, President



RICHMOND POND ASSOCIATION

The RPA met monthly using the Zoom format from April through October. The RPA's annual meeting was held August 26th, in person, at the Town Hall. The attendees enjoyed a root beer social prior to the meeting and heard reports on initiatives of the past year. Brittany Ebeling from Berkshire Environmental Action Team was a guest speaker. She discussed the impact trout stocking has on our environment.

Progress has been made with securing the needed permits for weed management with the Town of Richmond and the City of Pittsfield. The new permit will include herbicide treatment, weed harvesting and an annual 2 foot drawdown. In December, both Pittsfield and Richmond passed the Certificates of Compliance for the Orders of Conditions filed previously. This allowed for the combined aquatic vegetation management for Richmond Pond's Notices of Intent (NOIs) to be accepted and the new Orders of Conditions drafted by both Richmond and Pittsfield to be approved. We are now on track to treat the invasive weed species in our lake for the first time since 2021. Bruce Wintman, an active member of the RPA and an alternate for Whitewood, was instrumental in this process. The cost of weed treatments have increased dramatically since the Pond was last treated. We were fortunate to obtain a generous grant which will help with the cost of the treatment when it is scheduled and completed this year.

The Town has purchased a boat wash station for the boat ramp. They are waiting for approval from the State to move ahead with the needed permits but are hopeful it will be in place for 2026. There are new zebra mussel signs at the boat ramp and a certificate of decontamination must be signed every time a boat is launched. The RPA has plans to purchase signs for the communities around the Pond.

RPA officer elections were held in the fall. Re-elected were Louise Brogan as vice president, Laura Rosenthal as treasurer, Jonna Gaberman as the assistant treasurer and Doreen Donovan as secretary. The elections concluded with a continued vacancy for the role of president. We are always looking to grow our association and encourage anyone who is interested in joining the RPA to contact one of the board remembers. The contact information is on the RPA website.

Ongoing:

- All beaches were tested weekly by their contracted agencies, for E.coli. There were no reports of elevated E.coli levels.
- Cyanobacteria testing was done bi-weekly by the Lakes & Ponds Association of Western MA, paid for by the RPA. Paul Neumann coordinated the schedule and the volunteers. The levels for cyanobacteria had been below the state threshold

throughout the spring and summer testing. An algae bloom was reported in October. Ongoing monitoring is again planned for 2026. We know that high phosphates and nitrogen will promote weed growth. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission continues to advise us on grant opportunities that will benefit the health of the Pond.

- The Town funded and managed the public boat ramp monitors. They were able to staff the boat ramp from 6am-6pm, 7 days a week. The beach opened without a lifeguard and the gate was locked at 6 pm. The deteriorated handicap access mat into the swim area has not been removed. The Town acquired handicap chairs to assist people to access the water. The user is required to call Town Hall to reserve the chair and to have the storage shed unlocked.
- The RPA has helped to subsidize educational opportunities with Richmond School. This program has grown under the guidance of Louise Brogan and 4th grade teacher Gill Romano. A field trip to Richmond Pond will be an annual event for the 4th grade class and each previous 4th grade class will continue to be included. The students created signs with pictures they drew that they placed around the Pond. The signs included QR codes that discussed the Pond and a song that they made with the help of ChatGPT.
- Camp Arrow Wood hosted 120 campers for their sport sessions. Their enrollment continues to grow every year. Camp Russell hosted 350 campers per week for their camp sessions.
- The Richmond Pond history book has sold over 600 copies. There is a limited supply for sale at Bartlett's
- The RPA website is regularly updated. Bruce Wintman is managing the RPA website. He has updated the calendar and added live links. We continue to host a Facebook page.
- The annual "Developments at Richmond Pond" funding solicitation newsletter was distributed by mail in July. Your contributions are gratefully accepted and allow us to continue our mission of keeping Richmond Pond healthy and available for all to enjoy.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Brogan, Vice President
Laura Rosenthal, Treasurer
Jonna Gaberman, Assistant Treasurer
Doreen Donovan, Secretary



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Anita Chapman Scholarship Fund was established in 1971 with the sole purpose of assisting young people with their education or training following high school graduation. The awards may be used for education or training at a college, junior college, or vocational school or any other full-time program considered appropriate. The committee managed eight named scholarships in 2025. The 13 awards given totaled \$28,250.

Anita Chapman Scholarship Fund

- \$5,000 to Tessa Baldwin
- \$3,000 Thomas M. Mooney Scholarship in Memory of Barbara L. Morey to Hannah Roller
- \$5,000 Founding Members Scholarship in Memory of Nancy Benedict to Megan Mitchell

The Morray Award, In Honor of Maze and Jerry Morray

- \$4,000 to Nya Mielke
- \$4,000 to Ella Smith

William A. and Hazel B. Dickson Scholarship

- \$2,500 to Ella Saupé

Joyce C. Spence Scholarship

- \$1,000 to Micah Kanz

Sara MacDonald Scholarship

- \$750 to Anna Rawson

Malnati Family/Richmond Volunteer Fire Department Scholarship

- \$750 to Yelnaveta Krasii
- \$750 to Joe Weinberg

Helen and Harold Kingsley Memorial Scholarship

- \$600 to Alexander Kolean
- \$600 to Ellis Kanz

George Kingsley Scholarship

- \$300 to Reece Faggioni

An awarding committee, made up of representatives from five Richmond civic organizations, chooses the winners for all of the scholarships. All recipients are full-time Richmond residents who are either entering college or are already enrolled. The awards committee's decisions are based mainly on academic achievement and community service, with some consideration given for need.

The Anita Chapman Scholarship Committee, Inc. which administers the awards procedure and is in charge of investing the monies for three of the funds, wishes to thank those of you who have contributed this past year, either directly or through the Scholarship Jug at Bartlett's Orchard.

In accordance with IRS regulations, donations made to the Anita Chapman Scholarship Fund, Inc. are tax deductible based on the organizations 501(c)(3) status as a public charity. Donations may be sent to PO Box 153, Richmond, MA 01254.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Hartford
President





SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Richmond Consolidated School Committee is composed of five members elected on a rotating basis for three-year terms at the Town Election each May. The School Committee meets the third Tuesday of each month with School Committee agendas and meeting minutes posted on the Richmond Town Information Board, Richmond Town and Richmond Consolidated School's web sites. Agendas are also posted 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting in the notice box outside town hall. School Committee meetings are hybrid with meetings held at town hall.

Responsibilities of the Richmond School Committee include:

- * Evaluating the superintendent/principal
- * Supporting the superintendent and administrative/leadership team
- * Developing and overseeing the school budget
- * Advocating for RCS with citizens and the town government
- * Establishing policies in accordance with state law and regulations
- * Establishing a harmonious and productive relationship with the superintendent/principal by establishing two way communication.
- * Championing wise decision making to foster and promote educational excellence
- * The School Committee does not micromanage the school or the Superintendent.

The Mission of the RCS School Committee is to support an educational environment that encourages positive self-esteem, critical thinking, responsibility, mutual respect, citizenship, and a lifelong love of learning.

The Richmond Consolidated School welcomes Richmond students and choice students by lottery, from preschool through eighth grade. RCS's commitment to academic achievement, social integration, and arts appreciation provides students with a solid, beneficial foundation for lifelong learning and success.

During 2025, the School Committee reviewed, evaluated and approved the following policies & curricula:

- * School Choice, according to availability
- * Job descriptions for preschool, K-8, Special Education teachers & Paraprofessionals
- * Accumulative sick days for superintendent/principal to be the same as teachers
- * Wellness Policy, Homebound Instruction Policy, IBHF
- * Food Allergy Policy ADFA
- * Make-up Work Policy
- * Non-Discrimination Harassment & Retaliation, AC, AC-R, ACA, ACAB, ACGA, ACGB
- * 6-8 Class Trip
- * 5th Grade Trip to Outdoor Classroom
- * Standards Based Report Card
- * Foreign Exchange Program/Study Abroad, Canary Islands
- * RCS collaboration with Lenox with calendar and professional days

In addition the School Committee successfully negotiated contracts with the RCS

Teachers and Paraprofessional.

RCS School Committee Chair met monthly with the Civic Leadership Group consisting of representatives from the Select Board, Budget Advisory Committee, Town Administrator, RCS Business Administrator, and Dr. Choquette to facilitate collaborative communication and problem solving.

Following a review of family and staff feedback, along with input from the RCS School Committee, Dr. Choquette was rated “Exemplary” in all evaluated areas.

Each year the Richmond School Committee encourages community members to attend School Committee meetings. Residents’ input is valued.

Respectfully submitted,

Ina Wilhelm, Chair
Tom Forstner, Vice Chair
Nate Steele, Secretary
Dr. Karen Youdelman
Meghan St. John





TAX COLLECTOR UNAUDITED

The table below shows the outstanding receivables as of June 30, 2025 – the end of fiscal year 2025. These figures are drawn from the Collector's records as of June 30, 2025.

Real Estate Taxes

Levy of 2025	\$293,953.49
Levy of Prior Years	\$8,195.02
Total	\$302,148.51

Personal Property Taxes

Levy of 2025	\$7,642.59
Levy of 2024	\$615.81
Levy of 2023	\$544.15
Levy of 2022	\$74.68
Total	\$8,877.23

Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes

Levy of 2025	\$22,647.68
Levy of 2024	\$6,299.50
Levy of 2023	\$1,329.98
Levy of Prior Years	\$2,283.40
Total	\$32,560.56

Sewer Betterment

Total outstanding for all levy years	\$1,861,400.40
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Sewer Operation & Maintenance

Total outstanding for all levy years	\$11,537.30
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Respectfully submitted,

Amy J. Lane-Carmody
Treasurer/Collector



TOWN CLERK

There was one Annual Town Meeting, 2 Special Town Meetings and one Annual Town Election

I'd like to thank all of the election workers, constables, and the Board of Registrars for all their assistance for the election and town meetings that were held.

May 21, 2025	Special Town Meeting	44 out of 1304 voters attended (3%)
May 21, 2025	Annual Town Meeting	83 out of 1304 voters attended (7%)
Oct 16, 2025	Special Town Meeting	44 out of 1304 voters attended (6%)
May 22, 2025	Annual Town Election	54 out of 1304 voters voted (4%)

The clerk's office registered 10 births, 5 marriages, and 15 deaths in the Town of Richmond. We also licensed 200 dogs for the fiscal year. At the end of the fiscal year Richmond had 1266 registered voters and a total of 1526 residents. Thank you to our townspeople who responded to the Annual Street Listing/census.

I could not do my job as your Town Clerk without the help of Assistant Town Clerk Heather Lorange, Town Administrator Danielle Fillio and our Highway Superintendent and Peter Beckwith and his staff for helping to keep our voting area safe to protect our workers and residents They help keep me on track for the time I am not in the office and I want to thank them so much for all their assistance! We have a great team working for you at Town Hall.

It is an honor to serve the Town of Richmond.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Garrity
Town Clerk





TREASURER'S REPORT UNAUDITED

Beginning Balance 07/01/2024	\$ 5,851,607.94
Receipts	\$10,971,590.94
Payments	\$11,298,880.40
Ending Balance 06/30/2025	\$ 5,524,318.48

Outstanding Loans

Sewer Project	\$1,763,318.23
Library/Town Hall	\$6,860,000.00

Respectfully submitted,

Amy J. Lane-Carmody
Treasurer/Collector





TOWN ACCOUNTANT REPORT

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Richmond.

Following is the Town Accountant's Annual Report for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2025.

The Individual reports provided are listed below:

Unaudited Combined Balance Sheet

Expense Report

Revenue Report

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Garrity
Town Accountant



TOWN OF RICHMOND
Unaudited Combined Balance Sheet 07/01/2024 - 06/30/2025

	General Fund	Special Revenue	Capital Project	Enterprise	Internal Services	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt	Totals (Memorandum)
ASSETS								
Cash and cash equivalents	1,239,596.44	1,432,582.89	117,338.23	1,045,612.49		1,533,734.29		5,368,864.34
Investments								0.00
Receivables:								
Personal property taxes	8,877.23							8,877.23
Real estate taxes	302,148.51							302,148.51
Allowance for abatements & exemptions	(11,727.51)							(11,727.51)
Tax liens	97,685.00							97,685.00
Deferred taxes								0.00
Motor vehicle excise	35,793.68							35,793.68
Other excises								0.00
User fees	10,231.42	30,764.87		11,239.00				52,235.29
Utility liens added to taxes								0.00
Departmental								0.00
Special assessments								0.00
Due from other governments	365.00							365.00
Other receivables			243,955.29	1,862,037.00				2,105,992.29
Foreclosures/Possessions								0.00
Prepays								0.00
Due to/from other funds								0.00
Working deposit								0.00
Inventory								0.00
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation								0.00
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds							8,623,318.53	8,623,318.53
Amounts to be provided - vacation/sick leave								0.00
Total Assets	1,682,969.77	1,463,347.76	361,293.52	2,918,888.49	0.00	1,533,734.29	8,623,318.53	16,583,552.36
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY								
Liabilities:								
Warrants payable								0.00
Accounts payable								0.00
Deferred Revenue:								0.00
Real and personal property taxes	299,298.23							299,298.23
Tax liens	97,685.00							97,685.00

Richmond Annual Town Report - 2025

	General Fund	Special Revenue	Capital Project	Enterprise	Internal Services	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt	Totals (Memorandum)
Deferred taxes								0.00
Foreclosures/Possessions	10,231.42							10,231.42
Motor vehicle excise	35,793.68							35,793.68
Other excises								0.00
User fees		30,764.87		11,239.00				42,003.87
Utility liens added to taxes								0.00
Departmental								0.00
Special assessments								0.00
Due from other governments	365.00							365.00
Other receivables			243,955.29	1,862,037.00				2,105,992.29
Deposits receivable								0.00
Prepaid taxes/fees								0.00
Tailings	2,066.87							2,066.87
IBNR								0.00
Agency Funds						19,046.16		19,046.16
Notes payable								0.00
Bonds payable							8,623,318.53	8,623,318.53
Vacation and sick leave liability								0.00
Total Liabilities	445,440.20	30,764.87	243,955.29	1,873,276.00	0.00	19,046.16	8,623,318.53	11,235,801.05
Fund Equity:								
Reserved for encumbrances		463,249.16						463,249.16
Reserved for expenditures		620,000.00						620,000.00
Reserved for continuing appropriations								0.00
Reserved for petty cash								0.00
Reserved for appropriation deficit								0.00
Reserved for snow and ice deficit								0.00
Reserved for COVID-19 deficit								0.00
Reserved for debt service	3,250.00							3,250.00
Reserved for betterments			117,338.23	12,000.00				12,000.00
designated		1,432,582.89		661,701.28		1,514,688.13		3,726,310.53
Undesignated fund balance	151,030.41			371,911.21				522,941.62
Unreserved retained earnings								0.00
Investment in capital assets								0.00
Total Fund Equity	1,237,529.57	1,432,582.89	117,338.23	1,045,612.49	0.00	1,514,688.13	0.00	5,347,751.31
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	1,682,969.77	1,463,347.76	361,293.52	2,918,888.49	0.00	1,533,734.29	8,623,318.53	16,583,552.36

TOWN OF RICHMOND
All Departments Revenue Report
7-01-24 to 6-30-25

General Property Taxes

Personal Property Tax	\$ 288,939.37
Real Estate Tax	\$ 5,864,021.37
Motor Vehicle Excise Tax	\$ 329,925.46
Interest on Taxes & Excise	\$ 30,582.54
Tax Title Redeemed	\$ 4,643.59
Sub-Total General Taxes	\$ 6,518,112.33

Permits & Fees

Short Term Rentals	\$ 375.00
Fire Permits	\$ 1,730.00
Building permits	\$ 32,110.00
Plumbing Inspector	\$ 6,897.00
Wiring Inspector	\$ 2,250.00
Board of Health Permits	\$ 9,649.67
Fire Arm Permits	\$ 1,187.50
Sub-Total Pemits for Services	\$ 54,199.17

Other Charges & Miscellaneous

Tax Collector	
Municipal Lien Fees	\$ 2,075.00
Earnings on Investments	\$ 92,923.57
Town Clerk	\$ 1,234.50
Dog Licenses	\$ 1,630.00
Planning Board	\$ 50.00
Out of District Tuition	\$ 41,904.72
Miscellaneous Rev	\$ 34,918.43
Rental of Building	\$ 800.00
White Good Collection	\$ 1,862.46
Other Dept Rev	\$ 2,886.00
Ambulance-share West Stockbridge	
Liquor License	\$ 75.00
Sub-Total Other Charges & Miscellaneous	\$ 180,359.68

Revenue From State (Cherry Sheet)

Charter School Tuition Reimbursement	\$ 14,140.00
Chapter 70	\$ 535,143.00
State Owned Land	\$ 24,839.00
General Govt. State Aid	\$ 144,468.00

Fines RMV	\$ 1,649.31
Sub-Total State Revenue	\$ 720,239.31

Revenue from other Governments

Local Room Tax	\$ 29,809.67
Veteran's Reimbursement Benefits	\$ 364.38
Sub-Total other Governments	\$ 30,174.05

Total General Fund Revenues	\$ 7,503,084.54
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SEWER ENTERPRISE

Enterprise Revenue

Sewer User Charges	\$ 55,005.77
Other Departmental Rev	\$ 166,867.81
Investment Income	\$ 28,659.55
Total Revenue	\$ 250,533.13

Stabilization Fund Balance As of 06/30/2025

Stabilization	\$ 431,013.50
Town Building Repair	\$ 227.25
Highway Safety	\$ 91,088.25
Ambulance	\$ 10,234.63
Stabilization Fund Balance	\$ 532,563.63

TOWN OF RICHMOND
All Departments Expenditure Report
7-01-24 to 6-30-25

General Government

Treasurer / Collector

Treasurer / Collector Salary	\$ 66,971.56
Treasurer/Collector Expenses	\$ 20,721.46
Treasurer Tax Title Expenses	\$ -
Sub-Total Treasurer/Collector	\$ 87,693.02

Selectmen

Selectmen Salaries	\$ 2,625.00
Selectmen Expense	\$ 21,759.33
Training	\$ 3,885.83
IT Services	\$ 14,579.16
Technology Hardware	\$ 21,125.04
Sub-Total Selectmen	\$ 63,974.36

Town Administrator

Town Administrator Salary	\$ 88,730.08
Administrative Assistant	\$ 53,559.81
Town Administrator Expenses	\$ 7,761.59
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 702.25
Web Site Hosting	\$ 1,900.00
Town Report Expense	\$ 4,236.10
Longevity	\$ 8,329.17
Prior Year Invoices	\$ -
Sub-Total Town Administrator	\$ 165,219.00

Town Accountant

Accountant Salary	\$ 63,109.00
Accountant Expense	\$ 1,322.38
Sub-Total Town Accountant	\$ 64,431.38

Assessors

Assessors Salary	\$ 2,400.00
Assessors Expenses	\$ 9,488.12
Assessors Contracted Services	\$ 44,220.00
Sub-Total State Revenue	\$ 56,108.12

Town Counsel

Town Counsel	\$ 21,136.59
Legal Advertising	\$ 5,662.00
Sub-Total Town Counsel	\$ 26,798.59

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Salary	\$ 17,389.66
Town Clerk Asst	\$ -
Town Clerk Expenses	\$ 8,937.22
Elections & Voter Registration	\$ 4,756.16
Vital Records Restoration	\$ 8,500.00
Sub-Total Town Clerk	\$ 39,583.04

Conservation Commission

Con Comm Salary	\$ 14,221.50
Con Comm Expense	\$ 963.97
Sub-Total Conservation Commission	\$ 15,185.47

Planning Board/ZBA

Berkshire Reg Plan	\$ 1,227.78
Zonning Officer	\$ 4,488.96
Sub-Total Planning Board/ZBA	\$ 5,716.74

Town Hall

Town Building Maintenance	\$ 21,074.36
Town Hall	\$ 50,484.71
Stationary & Office Supply	\$ 3,751.31
Office Equipment	\$ 1,546.78
Sub-Total Town Hall	\$ 76,857.16

Town Meeting Articles

Software Purchase	\$ 30,000.00
Emergency Assistance	\$ 6,000.00
Dead and Diseased trees	\$ 1,800.00
School Parking Lot	\$ 94,432.50
Tractor and Brush Cutter	\$ 50,000.00
Solar Panel	\$ 10,000.00
Sub-Total Special Articles	\$ 192,232.50

Education

School Salaries	\$ 2,321,639.00
School Expenses	\$ 2,011,277.09
Total Education	\$ 4,332,916.09

Total General Government Expenses	\$ 5,126,715.47
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Public Safety

Police Department

Police Chief Salary	\$ 2,456.00
Police Dept Expense	\$ 2,000.00
Deputy Police Chief Salary	\$ 915.04
Sub-Total Police Department	\$ 5,371.04

Fire Dept/EMD

Fire Chief/EMD	\$ 16,419.37
Fire Dept Expense	\$ 90,243.86
Fire House Rent	\$ 14,640.00
County Communications	\$ 14,326.19
Emergency Management	\$ 2,587.52
Sub-Total Fire Dept	\$ 138,216.94

Ambulance Dept

Ambulance Salary	\$ 128,484.24
Ambulance Expense	\$ 51,852.08
Ambulance Intercept Charges	\$ 3,161.42
Sub-Total Ambulance	\$ 183,497.74

Building Inspector

Building Inspector Salary	\$ 8,383.92
Building Inspector Alt	\$ 120.00
Building Inspector Expense	\$ 4,300.00
Sub-Total Building Inspector	\$ 12,803.92

Animal Control

Animal Control Salary	\$ 5,000.04
Animal Control Expenses	\$ 286.08
Sub-Total Animal Control	\$ 5,286.12

Tree Warden

Total Public Safety Expenses	\$ 7,500.00
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Public Works

Beach

Richmond Pond Monitors	\$ 12,715.00
Town Beach	\$ 12,008.56
Sub-Total Total Beach	\$ 12,008.56

Highway Dept

Highway Salary	\$ 290,145.90
Overtime	\$ 32,711.00
Beaver Control	\$ 2,233.50
Machinery Maintenance	\$ 96,399.85
Road Construction	\$ 125,781.36
Road Maintenance	\$ 23,116.77
Town Garage	\$ 12,900.75
Gravel Roads	\$ 41,397.63
Private Roads	\$ 3,579.97
Fuel	\$ 40,835.48
Utilities	\$ 11,607.90
Winter Roads	\$ 214,740.48
Sub - Total Highway Dept	\$ 895,450.59

Sanitation

Rubbish Disposal \$ 236,575.27

Sub - Total Sanitation \$ 236,575.27

Cemetery Dept

Cemetery Supt Salary \$ 1,968.75

Cemetery Expenses \$ 3,940.10

Sub - Total Cemetery \$ 5,908.85

Total Public Works Expenses \$ 1,149,943.27

Public Health

Board of Health

Board of Health Salaries \$ -

Board of Health Expenses \$ 4,302.08

Board of Health Contracted Services \$ 23,960.00

Sub - Total Board of Health \$ 28,262.08

Veterans

Veteran Agent Salary \$ 500.00

Veterans Aid \$ 486.95

Memorial Day \$ 187.00

Sub - Total Veterans \$ 1,173.95

Council on Aging

COA Director \$ -

Council on Aging Expenses \$ 1,967.13

Sub - Total Council on Aging \$ 1,967.13

Total Public Health Expenses \$ 31,403.16

Culture And Recreation

Library \$ 78,933.23

Library Rent \$ -

Recreation Committee \$ 1,488.23

Historical Commission \$ 562.31

Total Public Health Expenses \$ 80,983.77

Debt Services

New Building Debt Payment \$ 426,950.00

Total Debt Services Expenses \$ 426,950.00

Unemployment/Insurance

Berkshire County Retirement	\$ 248,546.00
Unemployment Reserves	\$ 1,674.15
Group Insurance	\$ 193,246.61
Medicare - Town Share	\$ 52,506.66
Insurance & Bonding	\$ 126,674.00
Total Unemployment/Insurance	\$ 622,647.42

Total General Fund Expenditure \$ 7,791,318.85

Sewer Enterprise

Salaries	\$ 17,490.07
Sewer Expenses	\$ 43,025.63
Debt Payments	\$ 169,643.44
Total Sewer Enterprise Expenditure	\$ 230,159.14





TREE WARDEN

We are still dealing with many of our larger town trees aging and becoming hazards as well as the decline of all the Ash trees from the Emerald Ash Borer in conjunction with viral and fungal issues (Ash Yellows and Ash Anthracnose). We continue to be proactive in identifying trees in town that seem to be declining with a separate budget that allows us to do so. Should you notice distressed trees in the town right of way please contact the tree warden via text- 413-441-7836.

A big thank you to the town highway crew for their help in identifying and removing some trees as well as the tree contractors involved over the past year. Please note should any town ROW trees be in or near a wetland the Richmond Conservation Committee must issue a permit prior to removal.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Weinberg
Richmond Tree Warden



2025 TOWN MEETING WARRANTS





WARRANT FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

**TOWN OF RICHMOND
MINUTES FOR
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 21, 2025**



Noting there was a quorum, Moderator William Martin called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:30pm at Richmond Consolidated School.. Moderator introduced the head table, Selectmen: Roger Manzolini, Alan Hanson, Assistant Town Clerk Heather Lorange, Town Administrator Danielle Fillio, and Town Counsel Elisabeth Goodman. Assistant Town Clerk Heather Lorange confirmed that the warrant was posted in a timely manner. The Moderator stated the meeting will go by the rules of Town Meeting Time. He also stated the rules of this meeting: approach the microphone and state name and address; only address the Moderator not the audience; non-voters need to make it known they are not voters before they speak;

[Consent Calendar- Articles 1-3]

ARTICLE 1- To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to determine the manner of repairing the highways and caring for the cemeteries for the year.

ARTICLE 2- REVOLVING FUND LIMITS. To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of Section 53E 1/2 of Chapter 44 of the General Laws, to authorize the spending limits of the revolving funds outlined below. Expenditures from said funds shall not exceed the amount of funds received in the respective accounts or authorized below, shall come from any funds received by the respective boards and officers for performing services, shall be used solely for the purpose of coordinating and carrying out the programs delineated and shall be approved by a majority vote of the respective boards or officers.

Inspection Services - \$20,000

Council on Aging - \$5,000

Board of Health - \$2,500

Wetland Protection - \$5,000

Municipal Building or Property Rental - \$10,000

ARTICLE 3- To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and accept any monies appropriated for use by the Massachusetts Highway Department for Chapter 90 highway aid and to fund the appropriation by transferring said amounts from available funds. Said funds shall carry over from year to year until spent by the Town and shall be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in accordance with Chapter 90 of the General Laws. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

A motion was made and second to accept Articles 1-3. With no discussion Articles 1-3 Approved Unanimously.

ARTICLE 4- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as shall be deemed necessary for the upkeep and repair of the buildings, equipment, highways and cemeteries and for all other charges and expenses of the Town for the year and to set the salaries and compensation of all elected officers of the Town as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws. [Fiscal Year 2025 amounts are shown for comparative purposes. Please see the Explanations section following this warrant for more information] *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

[LINE ITEMS]

A motion was made and second to accept Article 4. With no discussion Article 4 Approved Unanimously

ARTICLE 5- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$390,501 for the debt service payment for the New Town Hall Library Building *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

A motion was made and second to accept Article 5. With no discussion Article 5 Approved Unanimously

ARTICLE 6- To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$39,699 for the debt service payment for the New Town Hall Library Building *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

A motion was made and second to accept Article 6. With brief discussion Article 6 Approved Unanimously

ARTICLE 7- To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$100,000 to cover the cost of Ambulance Salaries. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

A motion was made and second to accept Article 7. With no discussion Article 7 Approved Unanimously

ARTICLE 8- To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 from the ambulance receipts account to the ambulance expense account for the operation of the Richmond Ambulance service, the maintenance of the town ambulance, and for payments to County Ambulance and to other ambulance services providing backup and advanced life support to the Richmond Ambulance service, with any unexpended balance to be returned to the ambulance reserve account. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

A motion was made and second to accept Article 8. With no discussion Article 8 Approved Unanimously

ARTICLE 9- To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$236,000 needed to operate the sewer enterprise fund. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance)*

A motion was made and second to accept Article 9. With no discussion Article 9 Approved Unanimously

ARTICLE 10- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,592,996 for the support of the school. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

A motion was made and second to accept Article 10. With no discussion Article 10 Approved Unanimously

ARTICLE 11- To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$5,000 to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, established under the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 32B, Section 20. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

A motion was made and second to accept Article 11. With no discussion Article 11 Approved Unanimously

ARTICLE 12- To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$20,000 to the reserve fund. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

A motion was made and second to accept Article 12. With no discussion Article 12 Approved Unanimously

ARTICLE 13- To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$6,000 for a fuel emergency assistance program administered under a contract with Berkshire Community Action Council for the benefit of qualifying Richmond residents. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

A motion was made and second to accept Article 13. With no discussion Article 13 Approved Unanimously

ARTICLE 14- To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$5,000 for the treatment of weeds in Richmond Pond. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

A motion was made and second to accept Article 14. With no discussion Article 14 Approved Unanimously

ARTICLE 15- To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$9,000 to preserve deteriorating vital records books. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

A motion was made and second to accept Article 15. With no discussion Article 15 Approved Unanimously

ARTICLE 16- To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$75,000 into the Highway and Public Safety Stabilization account. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

A motion was made and second to accept Article 16. With no discussion Article 16 Approved Unanimously

ARTICLE 17- To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$400,000 to partially fund a new Fire Truck. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

A motion was made and second to accept Article 17. With brief discussion Article 17 Approved Unanimously

ARTICLE 18- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,500 to make temporary repairs on private ways including roads which are part of Richmond Shores Association and Whitewood Association. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

A motion was made and second to accept Article 18. With no discussion Article 18 Approved Unanimously

ARTICLE 19- Petition Article. To see if the Town will vote to Modify Chapter X, Section 10.6 of the Town By-laws by eliminating the following: “and shall be expended only upon the expenditure of an equal amount for care and maintenance of roadways by the petitioning abutters or their association. No cash deposit shall be required of the abutters and funds shall be kept in separate accounts: one to be maintained by the Town Treasurer and one to be maintained by the abutters. The Selectmen may accept contributions of volunteer labor in lieu of part or all of the required match, with the value of the contributions to be determined by the Selectmen.”

A motion was made and second to accept Article 19. With brief discussion Article 19 Approved Unanimously

Motion to dissolve the ATM was moved, seconded and approved by unanimous vote at 8:17 p.m.

A True Copy Attest:
June 3, 2025

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Garrity
Town Clerk

Total Registered Voters -1304
Total Voters that Attended – 83



WARRANT FOR THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

**TOWN OF RICHMOND
MINUTES FOR
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2025**



Noting there was a quorum, Moderator William Martin called the Special Town Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall Community Room at 1751 State Road.. Moderator introduced the head table, Selectmen: Alan Hanson, Roger Manzolini and Neil Pilson, Town Clerk/ Town Accountant Angela Garrity , Town Administrator Danielle Fillio, and Town Counsel Elisabeth Goodman. Town Clerk Angela Garrity confirmed that the warrant was posted in a timely manner. The Moderator stated the meeting will go by the rules of Town Meeting Time. He also stated the rules of this meeting: approach the microphone and state name and address; only address the Moderator not the audience; non-voters need to make it known they are not voters before they speak;

ARTICLE 1- To see if the Town will vote to borrow a sum of up to \$455,000 towards the purchase of a Fire Truck with necessary equipment, and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto. *(Recommended for approval by the finance committee)*

A motion was made and second to accept Article 1. After a brief explanation Article 1 Approved declared 2/3 voice vote.

Motion to adjourn the ATM was moved, seconded and approved by unanimous vote at 6:04 p.m.

A True Copy Attest:
October 20, 2025

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Garrity
Town Clerk

Total Registered Voters - 1304
Total Voters that Attended - 44





WARRANT FOR THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

TOWN OF RICHMOND MINUTES FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OCTOBER 16, 2025



Noting there was a quorum, Moderator William Martin called the Special Town Meeting to order at 6:05p.m at Town Hall Community Room at 1751 State Road. Moderator explained that this meeting was a continuation from Oct 1, 2025, which was continued due to lack of quorum. Moderator introduced the head table, Selectmen: Alan Hanson, Roger Manzolini and Neil Pilson, Town Clerk/ Town Accountant Angela Garrity, Town Administrator Danielle Fillio, and Town Counsel Elisabeth Goodman. Town Clerk Angela Garrity confirmed that the warrant was posted in a timely manner. The Moderator stated the meeting will go by the rules of Town Meeting Time. He also stated the rules of this meeting: approach the microphone and state name and address; only address the Moderator not the audience; non-voters need to make it known they are not voters before they speak;

ARTICLE 1- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$23,100 for Highway Salaries to become comparable with Berkshire County. *(Recommended for approval by the finance committee)*

A motion was made and second to accept Article 1. Roger with no discussion Article 1 Approved Unanimously.

ARTICLE 2- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,000 for removal of dead or dying trees to be added to monies already appropriated under Article 19 of the Annual Town Meeting May 16, 2024 *(Recommended for approval by the finance committee)*

A motion was made and second to accept Article 2. With no discussion Article 2 Approved Unanimously.

ARTICLE 3- To see if the Town will vote to grant and accept joint easements between the Town and Jeffrey G. Rea and Marla S. Rea, Trustees of the TCB Nominee Trust, ("Rea") a Massachusetts trust having its principal office at 2089 State Road, Richmond, MA, for property located at 2089 and 2079 State Road, Richmond Massachusetts. A true copy of the proposed joint easement agreement is on file with the Town Clerk of the Town of Richmond and available to the public.

A motion was made and second to accept Article 3. With no discussion Article 3 Approved Unanimously.

ARTICLE 4- To see if the Town will vote to allow the Board of Selectmen to execute the required documents and perform any act necessary and appropriate to take by eminent

domain pursuant to G.L. c. 79 the parcel of land owned by Colleen A. Catalano that lies within the area laid out as Church Lane, or to take any other action regarding the transfer of this property to the Town. Ms. Catalano's property is described in the deed recorded with the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds in Book 6554, Page 141 on January 6, 2020. The layout of Church Lane was approved unanimously by Town Meeting, in Article 23 of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to withdraw Article 4. With no discussion the vote to withdraw Article 4 was Unanimously approved.

Motion to adjourn the STM was moved, seconded and approved by unanimous vote at 6:20 p.m.

A True Copy Attest:
October 20, 2025

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Garrity
Town Clerk

Total Registered Voters - 1304
Total Voters that Attended - 44





EMPLOYEE EARNINGS HISTORY

Alibozek Debra	Teacher	65,184.34
Allen Thomas	Firefighter	20.00
Arseneau Mitchell	EMT	951.60
Baehr Smith Kristin	Librarian	41,253.57
Barry Patrick	Police Chief	3,064.00
Barsalou Garrett	Highway Worker	73,320.62
Bartlett Cynthia	Paraprofessional	28,723.73
Beckwith Jr. Peter	DPW Superintendent	102,247.86
Beeker Roberta	Substitute	402.50
Bell-Devaney Geoffrey	Teacher	106,887.81
Blackler Nathaniel	EMT	11,588.28
Boehm Jonathan	Firefighter	94.76
Borden Forest	Sewer Operator	4,093.76
Brazie Horace	Sewer Operator	13,317.13
Brazie Paul	Ramp Monitor	1,080.00
Brogan Louise	Teacher	101,097.73
Bullett William	Police Chief	2,400.00
Cahalan Gerald	Fire Chief	18,192.04
Caine Talia	Substitute	632.50
Callahan Lisa	Teacher	98,868.69
Chapman Carol	Library Staff	953.40
Choquette Beth	Principal	152,241.83
Ciempa Tanelle	EMT	59,708.49
Condron David	Ramp Monitor	3,866.25
Crennan Paul	Custodian	10,269.50
Cybulski Cali	Paraprofessional	23,762.76
Czerwinski Robert	Firefighter	2,116.15
Daigle Jeffrey	Assessor	1,300.00
Drake John	ACO	5,416.71
Duval Brian	Bldg Insp	120.00
Dyson Susan	Substitute	9,430.00
Edelman III L.	EMT	2,647.43
Evans Deborah	Library Staff	17.22
Evans Deborah	Elections	146.37
Faber Christine	Exercise Inst	1,725.00
Faggioni Angeli	Library Staff	11,296.22
Fancher Tracy	Tutor	1,237.50
Fenton Abigail	Substitute	1,610.00

Richmond Annual Town Report - 2025

Fillio Danielle	Town Admin	96,003.18
Forster Franz	Conservation Agent	14,000.00
Fredsall Nichalos	Electrical Insp	14,250.00
Garrity Angela	Accountant/Clerk	82,926.13
Gennari Robert	Electrical Insp	546.00
Gingras Natalie	School Secretary	47,317.07
Girard Alexander	Custodian	25,920.00
Girdler Jeanne	Paraprofessional	7,824.44
Greene Paul	Bldg Insp	14,099.10
Gregory Julia	Teacher	62,604.35
Hallock James	Firefighter	168.00
Hammer Robert	Highway Worker	62,690.52
Hanson Alan	Selectmen	875.00
Hanson Donna	Substitute	1,265.00
Harrington Krista	Teacher	27,760.14
Heath David	Teacher	34,177.54
Holcomb Tracy	Teacher	103,322.55
Holm Christopher	Firefighter	2,062.25
Homich Peter	Ramp Monitor	5,790.00
Hosley Kimberly	Teacher	101,320.31
Houle Zachary	Teacher	4,892.92
Housman David	Paraprofessional	14,898.11
Jervas Tammy	Cafeteria	55,147.12
Jezak Jessica	Paraprofessional	32,251.07
Jones Jeanne	Teacher	94,717.68
Kanz Rachel	Teacher	112,053.25
Keating Ryleigh	Cafeteria	23,698.61
Keuma Hipwell Carol	Substitute	3,686.00
Knox Jeremy A. B.	Firefighter	924.00
Korte Haley	Teacher	69,736.39
Korte Kathryn	Library Staff	114.53
Kuster Kimberley	Teacher	96,258.66
Lamke Devin	Occupational Therapist	60,305.92
Lane-Carmody Amy	Treasurer/Collector	69,641.40
Lebeau Phyllis	School Secretary	1,373.40
Lenfest Cristina	School Nurse	74,090.66
Lorance Heather	Admin Asst/COA	55,175.03
Lucas Paul	Ramp Monitor	5,130.00
Mahoney Erin	Tutor	4,062.50
Makarski Elyse	Paraprofessional	24,788.00

Richmond Annual Town Report - 2025

Manzolini Roger	Selectmen	875.00
McCumber Molly	Teacher	19,573.29
Morrissey Zachary	EMT	3,546.40
Morse Gloria	Elections	131.75
Mountain Candace	Library Staff	3,810.54
Mullen Joy	Teacher	112,165.03
O'Donnell Anna	Teacher	72,239.36
O'Neil Timothy	Custodian	24,999.00
Ostrander Heather	Teacher	102,068.53
Paschal Tyler	EMT	2,374.12
Pelltier Connor	Firefighter	866.00
Perkins Heather	EMT	31,879.14
Perry Catherine	Substitute	2,875.00
Perry Megan	EMT	7,622.79
Phelps Joyce	Elections	131.75
Pilson Neal	Selectmen	875.00
Pontbriant Christopher	EMT	48,733.08
Porter Christopher	Firefighter	208.00
Psutka Cheyanne	Paraprofessional	26,581.74
Renfrew Sharon	Teacher	75,157.85
Renteria Cuenu Samir	Custodian	15,656.00
Ritrosky-Winslow Madelyn	Library Staff	4,692.83
Romano Gill	Teacher	92,005.69
Roney Errin	Teacher	50,388.68
Rousseau Sean	School Custodian	2,660.00
Ryan John	Elections	96.00
Santiago Espendez Ryan	EMT	2,569.81
Sayers Ronald	School Custodian	2,850.00
Schultz Brian	EMT	15,177.49
Schwartz Lisa	Paraprofessional	29,946.26
Scott Amy	Superindent's Secretary	47,853.53
Searing Travis	Highway Worker	24,894.01
Senter Keefner Marguerite	Cafeteria	24,298.45
Shook Mary	Special Education Director	55,033.27
Silvagni Christopher	Firefighter	500.00
Smith Brett	Highway Worker	69,278.54
Smith Elizabeth	Teacher	69,244.54
Smith Eric	Firefighter	880.00
Smith Hilary	Teacher	32,326.65
Smith Michelle	Teacher	104,366.64

Richmond Annual Town Report - 2025

Soldato Jacob	EMT	674.68
Strout Paxton	EMT	13,630.19
Sumner Julieanne	Teacher	9,590.95
Supranowicz Raymond	Assessor	1,300.00
Talbot Mary	Substitute	916.75
Torrey Darin	Highway Worker	14,366.25
Traver Stephen	Fire Chief	1,492.67
Turczak Ricky	Ramp Monitor	3,600.00
Van Deusen Jeremy	EMT	6,240.00
Vecchia Michael	School Psychologist	24,349.42
Weeden Erin	Teacher	31,849.98
Wentworth Douglas	Psychologist	100,162.18
Wetherell Kimberly	Conservation Agent	4,231.50
Winter Michael	Firefighter	220.00
Winters Amity	Paraprofessional	1,040.93
Wyatt David	Firefighter	3,158.69
Zigmand Ronna	Teacher	101,742.18



*Photo Credit:
Patrick Barry*