



WARRANT FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Berkshire, ss

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 15, 2024, 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 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)*

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 2023 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]

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Article 5 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$430,200** for the debt service payment for the New Town Hall Library Building *Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

Article 6- To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of **\$50,000** for the purchase of a new tractor and brush cutter attachments *(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 **\$57,000** to cover the cost of a Defibrillator machine and necessary accessories. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

Article 8- To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of **\$210,000** 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)*

Article 9- To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of **\$226,000** needed to operate the sewer enterprise fund. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

Article 10- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,409,491** 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 **\$75,000** for the School HVAC upgrades. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

Article 12 – To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Stabilization the sum of **\$25,000** for the School HVAC upgrades. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

TWO – THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

Article 13- 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)*

Article 14- 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 15 - 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 16- 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 17 – To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$8,500 to preserve deteriorating vital records books. *(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 \$30,000 to cover the first year start up costs for switching collecting/accounting software. *(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 \$25,000 for removal or trimming of dead or dying trees town – wide. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

Article 20 – To see if the Town will vote to create a special Stabilization Fund for the purpose of town needs related to departments of Highway and Public Safety. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

TWO – THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

Article 21 – To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Town Hall Stabilization the sum of \$89,000 to the newly created Highway and Public Safety Stabilization. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

TWO – THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

Article 22 – To see if the Town will vote to create a special Stabilization Fund for the purpose of town needs related to Ambulance Department. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

TWO – THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

Article 23 – To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Town Hall Stabilization the sum of \$10,000 to the newly created Ambulance Stabilization. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

TWO – THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

Article 24 – To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$923 for prior Fiscal Year Invoices. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

Article 25 – To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the Legislature to enact special legislation which provides that, notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the board of trustees of the town of Richmond Free Public Library may invest any present or future gifts and donations received by and for the library in a separate interest-bearing account, or take any other action in relation thereto. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

Article 26 – To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L c. 44 Section 54 (b) to allow Town trust funds to be invested in accordance with G.L. c. 203C, the so called “Prudent Investment Rule”, or take any other action in relation thereto. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

Article 27 – To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Zoning Bylaw by inserting the words “for more than 80 days in a calendar year” to section 4.8 A Permitted Principal Uses 13. Short Term Room Rental Business to read as follows:

13. Short-Term Room Rental Business for more than 80 days in a calendar year provided that:

TWO – THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

Article 28 – To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Town Bylaw by adding a new section 11 to Chapter X Miscellaneous called Short Term Room Rentals. A copy of this proposed bylaw is on file with the Town Clerk.

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 16, 2024, at 11:00 AM, to bring in votes for the following Town Officers:

Board of Health	1 years
Board of Health	2 years
Board of Health	3 years
Finance Committee	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

Question 1.

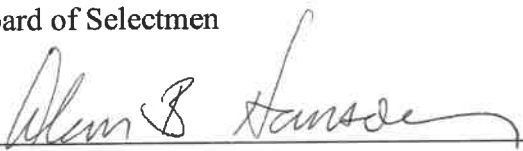
Shall section 5, Clause 41C1/2 of G.L. c. 59, added by chapter 139, Section 41 of the Acts of 2006, granting real estate property tax reductions to qualifying senior citizens, be accepted?

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 th day of May 2023.

Board of Selectmen



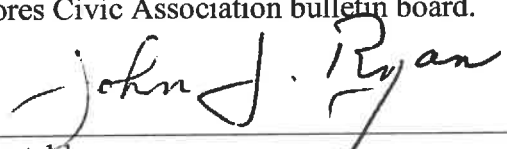
Alan Hanson, Chairman



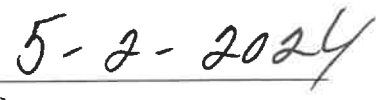
Neal Pilson


Roger Manzolini

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