

EXPLANATIONS
2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

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 2026 budget, including the operation of the Richmond Shores sewer system, the ambulance, and several proposed capital expenditures, is \$9,282,351, or an increase of \$415,870, 4.7%. The Selectmen and the Finance Committee continue to present to you a balanced budget that does not rely on the use of reserves to fund operational costs while providing the services residents expect from town government. This year's budget includes a 3% salary increase for non-school employees as well as increases in our insurance assessment. 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 2025 levels. The School Committee's Fiscal Year 2026 request from the town budget is \$4,592,996, an increase of \$183,505, or 4.16% over total school appropriations in Fiscal Year 2025.

The proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Sewer Budget is \$236,000. 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 as Pittsfield will now be billing correctly.

The breakdown of the revenues that will be required to meet the proposed expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026 in comparison to Fiscal Year 2025 are as follows:

<u>Source of Revenue</u>			Percent change of Revenues	2026 Percentage of <u>Total</u> <u>Revenue</u>
	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>		
Real and Personal Property Taxes (Tax Levy)	\$6,440,658	\$6,713,334	4.2%	72.3%
Non-Property Tax (State Aid, Local Receipts, Transfers, Other)	\$2,425,823	\$2,569,017	5.9%	27.7%
Totals	\$8,866,481	\$9,282,351	4.7%	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 2025 is estimated to be \$291,294.94.

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 \$1200 per Assessor. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
2. Assessors Expenses: \$28,500- This account pays for the Assessors' office supplies, map updating, contracted services, software licenses, and other expenses. \$7,000 increase from Fiscal Year 2025 per increased costs of software programming.
3. Assessor Contracted Services: \$44,220- 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. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
4. Audit: \$15,000- To be used to fund the annual audit of the Town's books using the Town's outside auditor, Thomas P. Scanlon, CPA. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
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 2025 as less people qualify for longevity.
6. Moderator Salary: \$500- The Moderator is entitled to a \$500 salary. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
7. Selectmen Salaries: \$5,250- These are the annual salaries of the Selectmen at \$1,750 per Selectman. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
8. Selectmen Expenses: \$4,500- This account pays for meetings, mileage, trainings, dues, and other expenses of the Selectmen. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
9. Town Clerk Salaries: \$17,912- 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 \$522 over Fiscal Year 2025.
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 2025.
11. Treasurer/Collector Salary: \$70,297- 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. 5% increase of \$3,347 over Fiscal Year 2025 with the hiring of a new Treasurer/Collector in 2024.

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 2025.
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 2025.
14. Town Accountant Salary: \$65,002- 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 \$1,893 over Fiscal Year 2025.
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 2025.
16. Administrative Assistant/COA Director/Assistant Town Clerk: \$55,167- This is a combined position. 3% increase of \$1,607 over Fiscal Year 2025.
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. 42.9% decrease of \$15,000 from Fiscal Year 2025 to reflect actual Town spending more accurately.
18. Town Report: \$4,000- This is the cost of printing the Annual Town Report. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
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 2025.
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. 20% decrease of \$2,000 from Fiscal Year 2025 due to the number of upcoming elections.
21. Town Administrator: \$92,723- This is the annual base 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. 4.5% salary increase of \$3,993 over Fiscal Year 2025.
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 2025.
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 2025.
24. Conservation Agent: \$24,720- This line item is to fund the services of the Conservation Agent. 3% increase of \$720 over Fiscal Year 2025.

25. Historical Commission: \$500- This account pays for copying, membership, meetings and other expenses of the Historical Commission. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
26. Planning Board: \$285- This account pays for annual subscriptions, meetings, and other expenses of the Planning Board. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
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 2025.
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 2025.
29. Council on Aging: \$2,500- 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. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
30. 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 2025.
31. 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 2025.
32. Town Facility Maintenance: \$25,000- This account pays for routine maintenance for all Town facilities and properties. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
33. 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 2025.
34. Training: \$4,000- This account pays for most training/continuing education opportunities for Town officers and employees. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
35. Office Equipment: \$3,000- This account pays for office equipment and furniture, and related expenses. 14.3% decrease of \$500 from Fiscal Year 2025 to reflect actual Town spending more accurately.
36. Website Hosting: \$1,900- This is the annual cost of hosting our Town's website and includes technical support. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.

PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY

37. Police Chief Salary: \$2,400- This is the annual salary of the Police Chief, who issues firearms permits, arranges traffic details, and other matters. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
38. Deputy Police Chief Salary: \$2,000- This is the annual salary of the Deputy Police Chief, who issues firearms permits, arranges traffic details, and other matters under the supervision of the Police Chief mainly during the winter months. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
39. 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 2025.
40. County Communications: \$0- This account formerly paid for Richmond's share of the Berkshire County Sheriff's Department to operate the 911 emergency dispatch system. 100% decrease of \$14,756 from Fiscal Year 2025. This amount has been added to Fire Department expenses due to increased equipment maintenance costs (see Item #44).
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 2025.
42. Animal Control Officer Salary: \$5,000- This is the annual salary for the Animal Control Officer. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
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 2025.
44. Fire Department: \$94,756- This account pays for fuel, truck and equipment maintenance, training, stipends and other expenses of the Fire Department. This amount includes \$14,756 from Item #40 to cover the increase in costs of equipment maintenance. 19.2% increase of \$15,256 over Fiscal Year 2025.
45. Fire House Rent: \$24,000- This account pays the rent to the Trustees of the Volunteer Fire Department for use of the building. 64.2% increase of \$9,380 over Fiscal Year 2025 per lease agreement.
46. 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 2025.
47. Fire Chief/EMD Salary: \$17,912- This is the annual salary of the Fire Chief/EMD which is a part-time, non-benefit eligible position. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.

- 48. Tree Warden: \$7,500- These funds are used for contracting with a tree service to remove problem trees. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
- 49. Building Inspector Salary: \$8,600- This is the Building Inspector's annual salary. 2.6% increase of \$216 over Fiscal Year 2025.
- 50. Building Inspector Expenses: \$4,800- This account pays for training, expenses and mileage of the Building Inspector and Alternate. 6.7% increase of \$300 over Fiscal Year 2025.
- 51. 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 2025.
- 52. Zoning Enforcement Officer Salary: \$4,580- This is the annual salary of the ZEO, who ensures that building projects and proposed uses conform to the Zoning Bylaw. 2% increase of \$91 over Fiscal Year 2025.
- 53. Zoning Enforcement Officer Expenses: \$500- This account pays for meetings, mileage and other expenses of the ZEO. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
- 54. 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 are turned around and paid to the inspectors. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

- 55. Board of Health Salaries: \$850- This is the annual salary account to be divided among five board members. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
- 56. Board of Health Expenses: \$4,000- This account pays for meetings and other expenses of the Board of Health. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
- 57. Board of Health Contracted Services: \$23,133- This account covers the cost of additional inspectional services provided to the Board of Health by the Berkshire Public Health Alliance. 5.4% decrease of \$1,327 from Fiscal Year 2025. This is a contractual service.
- 58. Stray Animals: \$100- This account will help pay any costs associated with retrieving stray animals, usually farm animals. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
- 59. Rubbish Disposal: \$249,107- 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. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.

60. 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 2025.

HIGHWAYS

61. Machinery Maintenance: \$75,000- This account pays for the upkeep and repair of equipment and trucks. 7.1% increase of \$5,000 over Fiscal Year 2025 due to the increased cost of replacement parts.
62. Road Construction: \$125,000- This account, combined with state transportation bond funds, pays for road construction and re-construction. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
63. Road Maintenance: \$38,500- This account pays for routine road maintenance. 18.5% increase of \$2,500 over Fiscal Year 2025 due to line painting cost increases.
64. Town Garage: \$12,900- This account pays for heating fuel, and other expenses at the Town Garage. \$1,650 increase from Fiscal Year 2025.
65. Winter Roads: \$160,000- This account pays for the plowing and sanding of the roads, including the costs of salt and sand. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
66. Gravel Roads: \$55,000- This account pays for the maintenance of the gravel roads. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
67. Salaries: \$313,467- This account is used to pay the road crew salaries. 5% increase of \$14,127 over Fiscal Year 2025.
68. Overtime: \$33,000- This account covers the costs of overtime in the department. 10% increase of \$3,000 over Fiscal Year 2025.
69. Fuel: \$40,000- This account covers the costs of fuel used by multiple Town departments. 4.8% decrease of \$4,200 from Fiscal Year 2025 to reflect actual Town spending more accurately.
70. Utilities: \$12,800- This covers the costs of utilities such as electric, cable, phone, and internet. 6.5% increase of \$740 increase from Fiscal Year 2025.
71. Private Roads: \$0- These were budgeted funds to assist Richmond Shores and the Whitewood Association in maintaining their private roads, pursuant to Chapter X of the Town Bylaws. Funding is required to be approved annually by Special Article per Chapter X, Section 10.6 of the Town By-laws.

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. 25% increase of \$1,000 over Fiscal Year 2025.
73. Town Beach: \$18,000- This account pays for the expected lifeguards and equipment costs involved in running the Town Beach. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.

CULTURE & RECREATION

74. 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 2025.
75. Memorial Day: \$200- This account pays for flowers, markers and flags for Memorial Day. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
76. Library: \$80,574- This account pays the salaries and operating costs of the Library. 2.3% increase of \$1,788 over Fiscal Year 2025.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

77. Berkshire County Retirement: \$233,450- 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. 5.7% decrease of \$14,096 from Fiscal Year 2025 due to a decrease in the annual assessment.
78. Group Insurance: \$210,000- 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. \$16,000 increase from Fiscal Year 2025. This line is estimated based on the number of anticipated policies for the coming year and an 8.2% rate increase.

TOWN INSURANCE

79. Insurance and Bonding: \$130,000- This account pays for the Town's insurance policies, including motor vehicle, property, public liability, worker's compensation, and officers' bonds. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.

UNCLASSIFIED

80. 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 2025.
81. Cemetery Superintendent Salary: \$2,500- This is the annual salary of the Cemetery Plot Manager. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
82. Cemetery Expenses: \$10,500- This account pays for the equipment and supplies in maintaining the cemeteries. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
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 2025.
84. Medicare: \$53,000- This account pays the Town's matching share of Medicare costs. 17.8% increase of \$8,000 over Fiscal Year 2025.
85. Group Purchasing: \$800- This pays for the Town's membership in the regional group purchasing program. No change from Fiscal Year 2025.
86. Richmond Pond Ramp Monitors: \$10,000- 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. 100% increase of \$5,000 over Fiscal Year 2025 to reflect actual Town spending more accurately.
87. 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 2025.

Article 5- Debt Service Payment: \$390,501

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)*

Article 6-Real Estate Fund: \$39,699

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Real Estate Funds the sum of **\$39,699** for the debt service payment for the New Town Hall Library Building. This is the proceeds from the sale of the old Town Hall which is legally required to be used towards the Debt Service Payment of Town buildings. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

Article 7- Ambulance Salaries: \$100,000

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)*

Article 8- Ambulance: \$100,000

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)*

Article 9- Sewer Enterprise Fund: \$236,000

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of **\$236,000** needed to operate the Sewer Enterprise Fund. The \$10,000 increase will be taken from Sewer Free Cash to help offset the expense increase as Pittsfield will now be billing correctly. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee).*

Article 10- School Budget: \$4,592,996

This represents a 4.16% increase over the Town's Fiscal Year 2025 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 monies, grants, and other school revenues. Below is a comparison of the accounts between the Fiscal Year 2025 budget and the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026. 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 2025	FY 2026
School Committee Accounts	\$12,830	\$12,700
Superintendent Accounts	\$71,985	\$76,834
Special Education Accounts	\$571,967	\$576,221
Principal Accounts	\$206,033	\$213,107
Supply Accounts	\$40,000	\$38,000
Teaching Accounts	\$1,759,479	\$1,879,969
Library Services	\$10,990	\$13,200
Professional Development Accounts	\$29,300	\$24,800
Technology Accounts	\$24,000	\$27,500
Health Accounts	\$71,367	\$73,456
Transportation Accounts	\$278,069	\$295,226
Activity Advisor	\$22,500	\$22,500
Tuition Accounts	\$904,887	\$902,711
Food Service Supervisor	\$51,328	\$53,382
Operations & Maintenance Accounts	\$334,031	\$328,620
Employee Benefits and Insurance Accounts	\$651,350	\$698,501
Unemployment Accounts	\$5,000	\$5,000
Contingency Accounts	\$10,000	\$46,743
Total	\$5,055,116	\$5,288,470
Less School Choice, grants and pre-school revenue	\$645,625	\$695,474
Amount raised and appropriated by the Town (Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)	\$4,409,491	\$4,592,996

Article 11- OPEB: \$5,000 transferred from Free Cash will continue funding towards 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 12- Reserve Fund: \$20,000

Transfer Free Cash to the Reserve Fund. This funds unexpected expenses with the approval of the Finance Committee. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

Article 13- Fuel Emergency Assistance Program: \$6,000

This is a fund to help 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. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

Article 14- Treatment of Weeds in Richmond Pond: \$5,000

Systemic and spot treatment of Richmond Pond to control invasive species. No monies were spent in Fiscal Year 2025 and will be carried forward. Any additional funds needed will be covered by the Richmond Pond Association. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

Article 15- Vital Records Restoration: \$9,000

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)*

Article 16- Highway and Public Safety Stabilization: \$75,000

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)*

Article 17- New Fire Truck: \$400,000

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. This \$400,000 is for the partial payment of the Fire Truck Replacement (Engine 1 - 1998 KME Pumper Truck). The remaining amount of \$390,000 will be funded through borrowing using Massachusetts State House Notes. The debt payments on that borrowing will need a debt exclusion vote that exempts the debt payments from proposition 2 ½ override requirements. *(Recommended for Approval by the Finance Committee)*

Article 18- 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.

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.”

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 22, 2025, at 11:00 AM, to bring in votes for the following Town Officers:

Board of Health	3 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
School Committee	3 Years

Ballot Question 1

Shall the Town of Richmond be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the notes issued in order to pay costs associated with the purchase of a new Fire Truck, and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto?

Debt Exclusion Vote –

A Yes vote on this question allows the Town to exempt the debt payment amount from Proposition 2 ½ requirements. This means that the annual debt payment amount is not included in the calculations towards any future proposition 2 ½ override vote. The Town historically has excluded their debt payments for the School Renovation Project and the Town Hall Library Project.