

TOWN OF RICHMOND
2024 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Sagadahoc, ss.

State of Maine

TO: James Donnell, Constable of the Town of Richmond

Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Richmond, in said county and State, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Richmond High School in said Town, on **Tuesday, June 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM**, then and there to act upon **Articles 1-62**, at the conclusion of which the meeting will be recessed; the recessed meeting will be reconvened at the Richmond High School in said Town on **Tuesday, June 11, 2024 from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM**, then and there to act upon **Article 63-64**.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator, by secret ballot, who will preside at said meeting. The “Maine Moderator’s Guide” shall be utilized by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$225,123 for the **Administration** Account (FY2023-2024: \$218,621).

Select Board Recommends \$225,123

Budget Committee Recommends: \$223,917

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$340,385 for the **Benefits** Account (FY2023-2024: \$311,337).

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$340,385

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$16,800 for the **Boards & Committees** Account (FY2023-2024: \$16,800).

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$16,800

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate from the undesignated fund balance \$25,422 for the **Capital Outlay** Account (FY2023-2024: \$68,656).

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$25,422

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$57,811 for the **CEO** (Code Enforcement/LPI Account (FY2023-2024: \$55,731).

Select Board Recommends \$57,811

Budget Committee Recommends: \$57,366

- ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$32,459 for the **Debt Service** Account (FY2023-2024: \$16,333).
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$32,459
- ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$182,723 for the **Fire/EMS** Account (FY2023-2024: \$169,290).
Select Board Recommends \$179,983
Budget Committee Recommends: \$182,723
- ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the **General Assistance** Account (FY2023-2024: \$10,000).
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$10,000
- ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$76,600 for the **Insurance** Account (FY2023-2024: \$74,600).
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$76,600
- ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,679 for the **Intergovernmental** Account (FY2023-2024: \$15,597).
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$15,679
- ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$64,510 for the Isaac F. Umberhine Public **Library** Account (FY2023-2024: \$62,689).
Select Board Recommends \$64,510
Budget Committee Recommends: \$63,883
- ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,430 for the **Parks & Cemeteries** Account (FY2023-2024: \$24,755).
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$8,430
- ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$290,271 for the **Police** Account (FY2023-2024: \$281,473).
Select Board Recommends \$290,271
Budget Committee Recommends: \$289,980
- ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$48,579 for the **Professional Services** (not including Legal Services) Account (FY2023-2024: \$46,736).
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$48,579
- ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$122,215 for the **Public Safety** Account (FY2023-2024: \$208,456).
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$122,215

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following amounts for support of the following **Public Service Agencies** for the ensuing year:

Dash Unit-Milfoil Program	\$6,500
New Hope For Women	\$600
Richmond Food Pantry:	\$5,000
Spectrum Generations	<u>\$1,575</u>
TOTAL:	\$13,675

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$13,675

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$433,897 for the **Public Works** Account (FY2023-2024: \$481,232).

Select Board Recommends: \$433,897

Budget Committee Recommends: \$419,105

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$42,292 for the **Recreation** Account (FY2023-2024: \$40,509).

Select Board Recommends \$41,928

Budget Committee Recommends: \$42,292

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$33,250 for the **Seniors** Account (FY2023-2024: \$31,940).

Select Board Recommends \$33,250

Budget Committee Recommends: \$32,710

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate 92,170 for the **Solid Waste** Account (FY2023-2024: \$87,300).

Select Board Recommends \$92,170

Budget Committee Recommends: \$91,453

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$37,223 for the **Town Fuel** Account (FY2023-2024: \$42,412).

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$37,223

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate \$55,732 from unassigned fund balance to be placed in the **Municipal Planning Reserve** Account for a 2025 property revaluation (FY2023-2024: \$42,500).

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: Approval

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 to be placed in the **Catch Basin Reserve** Account (FY2023-2024: \$5,000).

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: Approval

- ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,200 to be placed in the **Police Equipment Reserve** Account (FY2023-2024: \$11,700).
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: Approval
- ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate \$350,000 from unassigned fund balance to be placed in the **Public Works Reserve** Account (FY2023-2024: \$350,000).
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: Approval
- ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 to be placed in the **Town Building Repair & Maintenance Reserve** Account (FY2023-2024: \$5,000).
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: Approval
- ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate \$200,000 from unassigned fund balance to be placed in the **Town Vehicle Reserve** Account (FY2023-2024: \$200,000).
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: Approval
- ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate \$5,000 from unassigned fund balance to be placed in the **Employee Contingency Reserve** Account (FY 2023-2024: \$5,000).
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: Approval
- ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate \$5,000 from unassigned fund balance to be placed in the **Fire Equipment Reserve** Account (FY 2023-2024: \$5,000).
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: Approval
- ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$60,000 from the **Town Properties Improvement Reserve** Account for the purchase of Town Office Siding/Roofing Repairs, Town Office Flooring, Fire Station Roof Repair, Town Office Safety Installation Reimbursement, Holding Area Power for Compactor, Police Station Doors, Library Boiler.
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: Approval
- ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate fifty-percent (50%) of the money received from the State of Maine for snowmobile registrations to the Richmond Sno-Rovers Club for the maintenance of their system or network of snowmobile trails, on the condition that those trails be open to the public for snowmobile purposes at no charge in the snow season, and to authorize the Select Board to enter into an agreement with the Club under such terms and conditions as it deems advisable for that purpose.
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: Approval
- ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$950,000 from the **Estimated Revenues** Account (Non-Property Tax Revenue) to be applied to reduce the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 tax commitment.
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: Approval

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept delivery of a deed from the State of Maine, acting by and through the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, conveying ownership of a parcel of real property known as "Peacock Beach" designated by the Town as Tax Map U16 Lot 006, and consisting of 32 acres, and to further authorize the Select Board to execute any documents related to the acceptance of said property on such terms and conditions as it deems advisable.

Select Board Recommends: Approval

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to change its plan effective July 1, 2024 for its current, participating police officers who have service under Regular Plan AC prior to December 1, 2023 in order to make all of their service with the Town Special Plan 3C service and:

- a) To raise and appropriate \$66,140.00 for this purpose;
- b) To remit payment to MainePERS of the additional liability to the Plan resulting from this change of \$66,140.00 in a lump sum by July 31, 2024; and
- c) To authorize the Select Board Chair to sign the Amended Agreement between the Town and the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will vote to fix the date when property taxes become due and payable, with the first payment being due and payable on November 10, 2024; and the second payment being due and payable on May 10, 2025; and to instruct the Tax Collector to charge interest at 6% per annum on all taxes unpaid after said date(s).

ARTICLE 37: To see if the Town will vote to set the rate of 2% interest per annum on abated taxes and to authorize such interest paid or abatements granted to be appropriated from overlay funds then, if necessary, from unassigned fund balance.

[Note: 36 M.R.S. § 506-A provides the rate of interest may not exceed the rate set for delinquent taxes, nor be less than that rate reduced by 4%.]

ARTICLE 38: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 506, with no interest to accrue on any excess paid over the amount finally committed.

ARTICLE 39: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to offer a Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Tax Club Plan to taxpayers who enroll no later than July 31, 2024; who pay the total amount of FY 2024-2025 taxes by monthly payments from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025; who abide by the requirements of said plan as established by the Select Board; who shall receive from the Town, in return for such payments, full credit for such taxes paid without incurring any charge of interest.

- ARTICLE 40: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for State, federal (including Community Development Block Grants) and other grants on behalf of the Town for purposes deemed by the Select Board to be in the best interests of the Town; to accept such grants, including, when necessary, the authority to sign contracts and related documents and to accept conditions of approval; and to appropriate such grant funds for any purpose for which the Town has appropriated funds in Fiscal Year 2024-2025.
- ARTICLE 41: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to retain, sell or dispose of, by such means and upon such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems advisable, any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon, and to execute such contracts, deeds and other instruments, and to take such other actions as may in the Select Board's judgment be advisable to effect the sale of such property, or, if the property is residential property and is occupied by the immediate former owner(s), the Select Board may convey the property to the immediate former owner(s) upon payment in full of all taxes, interest and charges incurred by the Town within 90 days of notice to the immediate former owner(s) of the repurchase opportunity; provided, however, that the Select Board shall comply with the requirements of 36 M.R.S. § 943-C if it chooses to sell the property to anyone other than the former owner(s).
- ARTICLE 42: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to waive the foreclosure of a tax lien mortgage by recording a waiver of foreclosure at the Registry of Deeds in which the tax lien certificate is recorded prior to expiration of the right of redemption pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 944 upon a finding by the Select Board that ownership of the property that is subject to the tax lien mortgage would be contrary to the Town's best interests.
- ARTICLE 43: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell or otherwise dispose of Town-owned personal property deemed by the Select Board to be obsolete on such terms and conditions as it deems advisable.
- ARTICLE 44: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept or reject donations of personal property and/or to accept or reject gifts of money to the various accounts of the Town for the ensuing year and to appropriate those monies donated for specific purposes.
- ARTICLE 45: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to make final determinations, after notice and hearing, regarding the winter closing of roads in accordance with 23 M.R.S. § 2953(3) and final determinations, after notice and hearing, to annul, alter or modify such orders in accordance with 23 M.R.S. § 2953(4).

- ARTICLE 46: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$3,413,520 for Pre-K-12 Regular Instruction.
School Committee Recommends: \$3,413,520
Budget Committee Recommends: \$3,233,067
- ARTICLE 47: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$1,466,853 for Special Education.
School Committee Recommends: \$1,347,006
Budget Committee Recommends: \$1,466,853
- ARTICLE 48: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$275,818 for Other Instruction.
School Committee Recommends: \$275,818
Budget Committee Recommends: \$266,097
- (This article includes extra-curricular and co-curricular activities.)*
- ARTICLE 49: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$953,660 for Student and Staff Support.
School Committee Recommends: \$953,660
Budget Committee Recommends: \$866,738
- (This article includes counseling, health, technology, student support, staff support services and libraries.)*
- ARTICLE 50: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$383,248 for System Administration.
School Committee Recommends: \$383,248
Budget Committee Recommends: \$312,849
- ARTICLE 51: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$480,931 for School Administration.
School Committee Recommends: \$480,931
Budget Committee Recommends: \$465,042
- ARTICLE 52: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$455,393 for Transportation and Buses.
School Committee Recommends: \$455,393
Budget Committee Recommends: \$410,434
- ARTICLE 53: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$913,116 for Facilities Maintenance.
School Committee Recommends: \$913,116
Budget Committee Recommends: \$885,406

ARTICLE 54: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$25,000 for contingency.

School Committee Recommends: \$25,000

Budget Committee Recommends: \$25,000

ARTICLE 55: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$5,268,957.60 for the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act (*School Committee recommends \$5,268,957.60*) and to see if the town will vote to raise \$2,191,440.66 as the town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes Title 20-A, § 15688.

School Committee and Budget Committee Recommend Local Share:

\$2,191,440.66

(The State of Maine's share is \$3,077,516.94)

Explanation: The school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that a municipality must raise in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.

ARTICLE 56: **(Written Ballot Required)** Shall the Town raise and appropriate \$2,748,735.40 in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$2,748,735.40, as required to fund the budget recommended by the school committee?

The School Committee recommends \$2,748,735.40 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Program and Services funding model by \$2,748,735.40:

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the school administrative unit's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state-funded debt service that will help achieve the Town's budget for educational programs.

The Budget Committee recommends \$2,432,527.00

ARTICLE 57: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$8,247,693 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025 from the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, additional local funds for school purposes under the 20-A M.R.S. § 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, local appropriations, state subsidy, school lunch revenues and other receipts for the support of schools.

School Committee Recommends: \$8,247,693

Budget Committee Recommends: \$7,931,485

Explanation: This article is a summary article and approves expenditures of the proposed budget of \$8,247,693. This article authorizes the School Committee to expend the money appropriated in the previous articles, plus other revenues. This article does not raise any additional money.

Category	School Committee Recommendation	Budget Committee Recommendation
Local Contribution	\$2,191,440.66	\$2,191,440.66
Additional Local Funds	\$2,748,735.40	\$2,432,527.43
State Subsidy	\$3,077,516.94	\$3,077,516.94
Carry Forward	\$230,000.00	\$230,000.00
Total	\$8,247,93.00	\$7,931,485.00

ARTICLE 58: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$32,424 for food service with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the food service program.
 School Committee Recommends: \$32,424
 Budget Committee Recommends: \$25,000

ARTICLE 59: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the creation of a Richmond School Department Projects Reserve Account, to be funded by town appropriations, cash donations or gifts with monetary value specifically donated for the purpose of funding Richmond School Department projects, which shall include the reconstruction or repair of buildings/facilities, grounds, fields, parking lots, sidewalks, or other public projects which are considered by the School Committee as necessary and in the best interest of the school.
School Committee Recommends: Approval

ARTICLE 60: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$85,000 to be placed in the **Richmond School Department Projects Reserve Account**.
School Committee Recommends: \$85,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$0.00

ARTICLE 61: To see if the Town will vote to accept and authorize the School Committee to expend the categories of funds estimated below as provided by the Maine State Legislature.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Anticipated Amount</u>
E.S.E.A Funds (Titles 1, 4, 5)	\$ 101,565.79
State Subsidy	\$ 3,077,516.94
School Lunch Reimbursement	\$ 269,200.00
Special Education Local Entitlement (I.D.E.A.)	\$ 150,647.60
Unanticipated State Subsidy	\$ To Be Determined
Estimated ESSER Funds Anticipated from RSU #2	\$ 792,300.00

School Committee Recommends: Approval

ARTICLE 62: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend any grant monies received in addition to expenditures approved in the regular school budget.
School Committee Recommends: Approval

ARTICLE 63: To elect by secret ballot the following officials:

- A. Two (2) members of the Select Board/Assessors/Overseers for three (3) year terms.
- B. One (1) Budget Committee member for a three (3) year term.
- C. One (1) Richmond Utilities District member for a three (3) year term.

ARTICLE 64: To vote by secret ballot on the following referendum question:

Shall an ordinance entitled "2024 Amendments to the Town of Richmond Land Use Ordinance" be enacted?"

(The proposed ordinance is available for review and inspection at the Town Clerk's Office and will be available at the Town Meeting.)

GIVEN UNTO OUR HANDS THIS _____ th day of May, 2024.
Select Board, Richmond, Maine

Robert C. Bodge, Jr., Chair

Andrew C. Alexander, Vice-Chair

Brian York, Select Board Member

Marilynn Grizkewitsch, Select Board Member

Randy M. Bodge, Select Board Member

For purposes of **voter registration**, the Town Clerk, serving as Registrar of Voters, has office hours at the Town Office as follows: Monday through Thursday from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. Please leave a message at the Town Office if other arrangements are required for registration.

If any registered voter of Richmond is **hearing-impaired** and requires the services of someone to sign the meeting in order to allow the voter full participation, please contact the Town Manager as soon as possible so arrangements can be made.

A True copy of the Warrant,

Attest: _____
Sharon Woodward, Town Clerk
Town of Richmond, Maine

RETURN ON THE WARRANT

Richmond, Maine

Pursuant to the within warrant to me directed, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of said Town, qualified as herein expressed, to meet at said time and place, and for the purposes therein named, by posting an attested copy of said warrant at the following locations: Exit 43 Quick Stop; Downeast Credit Union; Charlene's; Richmond Post Office; Knights Feed; Camden National Bank; Town Municipal Building; and the Isaac F. Umberhine Library, being public and conspicuous places in said Town, on the _____ day of _____, 2024, being at least seven days before the meeting.

James Donnell
Constable, Richmond Maine