



**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
TOWN OF RICHMOND
TOWN MEETING RESULTS
MARCH 2020**

The first session of the Town Meeting was held at the Veterans' Memorial Hall in Richmond, NH on Tuesday, the 10th of March 2020, with polling hours from 11:00 AM until 7:00 PM. Of the 828 voters on the checklist, 203 voted. The following subjects were acted upon by official ballot:

Article 1. Town Officers elected:

- Cemetery Trustee for three (3) years, Jerald A. Merrifield – 160 votes.
- Library Trustee for three (3) years, Dixie Gurian – 156 votes.
- Moderator for two (2) years, Walden Whitham – 173 votes.
- Planning Board for three (3) years, Lloyd Condon – 132 votes.
- Planning Board for three (3) years, Eric Duda– 50 votes.
- Selectman for three (3) years, William R. Daniels – 179 votes.
- Supervisor of the Checklist for six (6) years, Pamela J. Bielunis – 161 votes.
- Supervisor of the Checklist for four (4) years, Alison VanBrocklin - 162 votes.
- Trustee of Trust Funds for three (3) years, Pamela R. Goodell – 166 votes.

Article 2. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Richmond Planning Board for the Town of Richmond Zoning Ordinances as follows: Changes in **bold**.

To rewrite and reorganize Article 11. Section 1105.4, under 1105.4.1.

The total area of the lot that is associated with the use (e.g., structures, parking, or storage) may not exceed **one third of the total acreage of the lot with a cap of 40,000 sq. feet.**

Article 2 Passed: 98 Yes; 69 No.

Article 3. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Richmond Planning Board for the **Town of Richmond Floodplain Management Ordinance** as follows: Changes in **bold**.

To rewrite and reorganize Section II- Establishment, second paragraph down.

The following regulations in the ordinance shall apply to all lands designated as special flood hazard area by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in its "Flood Insurance Study for **Cheshire County, NH**" dated **May 23, 2006** or as amended, together with the associated Flood

Insurance Rate maps dated May 23, 2006 or as amended, which are declared to be a part of this ordinance and are hereby incorporated by reference.

Article 3 Passed: 125 Yes; 40 No.

Article 4. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #3 as proposed by the Richmond Planning Board for the **Town of Richmond Floodplain Management Ordinance** as follows: Changes in **bold**.

To rewrite and reorganize Section VI Certification

- a. The as-built elevation **to mean sea level** of the lowest floor (including basement) and include whether or not such structures contain a basement.
- b. If the structure has been floodproofed, the as-built elevation (in relation to **mean sea level**) to which the structure was floodproofed.

Article 4 Passed: 122 Yes; 44 No.

Article 5. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #4 as proposed by the Richmond Planning Board for the Town of **Richmond Floodplain Management Ordinance** as follows: Changes in **bold**.

To rewrite and reorganize Section IX Special Flood Hazard Areas.

1. In Zone A the Richmond Conservation Commission shall obtain, review and reasonably utilize any 100-year flood elevation data available from any federal, state or other source including data submitted for development proposals submitted to the community (i.e. subdivisions, site plan approval). **Where 100-year flood plain is not available or not known, the 100-year flood plain elevation shall be determined to be at least 2 feet above the highest adjacent grade.**

Article 5 Passed: 120 Yes; 46 No.

The second session of the Town Meeting was held at the Veterans' Memorial Hall in Richmond, NH on Saturday, the 14th of March 2020.

Seated at the table on the stage were: William Daniels, Douglas Bersaw, and Andrew Wallace, Selectboard; Joseph Hoppock, legal counsel for the Town of Richmond. Walden Whitham, Moderator, stood at the podium on the stage. Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk, was seated off-stage to the right of the Moderator.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM by Mr. Whitham.

Mr. Whitham explained that Bonnie McCarthy, who normally led the invocation, did not attend due to concerns of the COVID-19 outbreak. Mr. Whitham led the invocation.

Leading the salute to the flag was Mr. Whitham.

Mr. Whitham sang “America the Beautiful,” with those attending singing along at Mr. Whitham’s invitation.

Mr. Whitham introduced the people on the stage and the Town Clerk seated off-stage.

He then reviewed the rules and procedures of the meeting.

Of the 828 voters on the checklist, 62 voters checked in.

Antionette Cincotta moved to consider Article 23 prior to consideration of Article 6. The motion was seconded.

Approaching the microphone to speak or speaking from the stage were: Francesca Heap; Antionette Cincotta; Maureen Daugherty; and Susan Wyatt, with questions and responses as to why consider Article 23 first. Other questions and explanations were voiced with Mr. Whitham responding that these would be addressed later.

Daniel Connell made a motion to vote on the motion to consider Article 23 prior to consideration of Article 6. Motion was seconded.

The motion to consider Article 23 prior to consideration of Article 6 passed by voice vote.

Article 23. By petition of 20 or more eligible voters, we the town of Richmond hereby call upon our State and Federal elected representatives to pass carbon-pricing legislation, in the US Congress (such as HR763) and in the NH General Court (such as HB735), to protect New Hampshire from both the costs and the environmental impacts of continued inaction. We want a ‘Carbon Cash-Back’ program that uses a revenue-neutral, market-based carbon price with cash-back rebates to all NH residents aged 18 and over. Carbon cash-back programs provide significant economic benefits to consumers by correcting long-standing market-failures and delivering rapid reductions from harmful emissions. We understand that if the federal bill passes there will be no duplication of carbon pricing fees. We expect our representatives to lead in this critical moment for the health and well-being of our citizens and for the protection of New Hampshire’s natural resources upon which we all rely. Further we support Carbon Cash-Back because it promotes energy independence, decreases fossil fuel dependence and keeps New Hampshire’s energy dollars in New Hampshire’s economy. Majority vote required.

Approaching the microphone to speak were: Susan Wyatt; Daniel Connell; Carol Jameson; Eric Duda; and William Wroblewski. Information was shared and opinions expressed both in favor of and opposed to Article 23. Discussion included but was not limited to the following: opposition to further taxation; concerns about the complicated wording of this article; and an explanation of Article 23.

Article 23 failed by majority voice vote.

Mr. Daniels moved to restrict from reconsideration Article 23. The motion was seconded.

The motion to restrict from reconsideration Article 23 passed by voice vote.

Article 6. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$145,000 for road upgrade and reconstruction of Morgan Road, said appropriation to be non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and

will not lapse until the work is completed or March 31, 2022, whichever is earlier. Recommended by the Selectmen.

Article 6 passed by voice vote.

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$271,789 for Town Administration. Recommended by the Selectmen.

Article 7 passed by voice vote.

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,067 for Police. Recommended by the Selectmen.

Approaching the microphone to speak or speaking from the stage were: Eric Duda; Hugh VanBrocklin; Douglas Bersaw; Andrew Wallace; and Carol Jameson. Questions were raised and answered regarding the impact that the passing of Articles 18 and 19 would have on Article 8. Additionally, coverage of Richmond by the Cheshire County Sherriff's Office was praised.

Article 8 passed by voice vote.

Mr. Wallace moved to restrict from reconsideration Articles 6 through 8. The motion was seconded.

The motion to restrict from reconsideration Articles 6 through 8 passed by voice vote.

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$85,536 for Ambulance, Fire and Rescue, and Emergency Management. Recommended by the Selectmen.

Article 9 passed by voice vote.

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$302,565 for Highway, Streets and Sanitation. This appropriation shall be offset by revenue of \$58,000 from the Highway Block Grant. Recommended by the Selectmen.

Article 10 passed by voice vote.

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,288 for Health and Welfare. Recommended by the Selectmen.

Article 11 passed by voice vote.

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$46,829 for Culture and Recreation. Recommended by the Selectmen.

Article 12 passed by voice vote.

Mr. Wallace moved to restrict from reconsideration Articles 9 through 12. The motion was seconded.

The motion to restrict from reconsideration Articles 9 through 12 passed by voice vote.

Article 13. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to be added to the Road Reconstruction and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. This appropriation shall be offset by revenue of \$21,000 from Municipal Aid. Recommended by the Selectmen.

Article 13 passed by voice vote.

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$50,000 to be added to the Bridge Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. Recommended by the Selectmen.

Article 14 passed by voice vote.

Mr. Whitham asked if those attending would like to recess briefly. A motion was made to continue the meeting uninterrupted. The motion was seconded.

The motion to continue the meeting passed by voice vote.

Mr. Whitham noted that there were baked goods for sale in the kitchen and that all donations would go to the Richmond Food Pantry. He asked that any interested persons please stop by the kitchen after the adjournment of the meeting.

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Fire Truck Fund Capital Reserve Fund. Recommended by the Selectmen.

Article 15 passed by voice vote.

Mr. Wallace moved to restrict from reconsideration Articles 13 through 15. The motion was seconded.

The motion to restrict from reconsideration Articles 13 through 15 passed by voice vote.

Article 16. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to be added to the Public Safety Radio Communication Equipment Expendable Trust Fund. Recommended by the Selectmen.

Article 16 passed by voice vote.

Article 17. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Fire Department Equipment Fund. Recommended by the Selectmen.

Article 17 passed by voice vote.

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Police Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund created in 1997. Said funds and accumulated interest to date of withdrawal are to be transferred to the town's general fund. Majority vote required - Recommended by the Selectmen.

Approaching the microphone to speak or speaking from the stage were: Francesca Heap; William Daniels; Douglas Bersaw; and Christine Wroblewski. Discussion included but was not limited to the following: Ms. Heap requested clarification; Mr. Daniels and Mr. Bersaw explained that, by law, the funds contained in the Trust Funds referenced in Articles 18 and 19 had to go specifically to the General Fund and that Article 20 was subsequently allocating those funds to the Bridge Fund.

Article 18 passed by unanimous voice vote.

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Police Safety Equipment Expendable Trust Fund created in 2001. Said funds and accumulated interest to date of withdrawal are to be transferred to the town's general fund. Majority vote required - Recommended by the Selectmen.

Article 19 passed by unanimous voice vote.

Article 20. To see if the town will raise and appropriate the amount of \$32,663.00 to be added to the Bridge Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. Such sum to come from the unassigned fund balance and represents the amount of the discontinued funds. This article is contingent on the passing of Article 18 and Article 19. Majority vote required - Recommended by the Selectmen.

Speaking from the stage, Mr. Daniels provided further explanation.

Article 20 passed by unanimous voice vote.

Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Rescue Squad Equipment Expendable Trust Fund created in 2013. Said funds and accumulated interest to date of withdrawal are to be transferred to the town's general fund. Majority vote required - Recommended by the Selectmen.

Approaching the microphone to speak were: Jerald Merrifield who inquired as to the status of the Rescue Squad; Edward Atkins responded, saying that the Rescue Squad was integrated into the Richmond Fire Department in order to comply with various tax-exempt requirements.

Article 21 passed by unanimous voice vote.

Article 22. To see if the town will raise and appropriate the amount of \$7,411 to be added to the Fire Department Equipment Expendable Trust Fund. Such sum to come from the unassigned fund balance and represents the amount of the discontinued funds. This article is contingent on the passing of Article 21. Majority vote required-Recommended by the Selectmen.

Article 22 passed by unanimous voice vote.

Article 24. To hear any reports of Agents, Committees, etc. heretofore chosen and to take any action thereon.

Article 24 passed by voice vote.

Article 25. To take any action that may legally come before the meeting.

Mr. Daniels thanked the following who had recently stepped down from their Town positions for their service: Richard Drew, Zoning Compliance Officer; Mark Beal, Road Agent; Thomas Lavoie, Zoning Board of Adjustment; Lynn Adams, assistant to the Richmond Police; and William Coll, Cemetery Trustee.

Mr. Bersaw thanked Edward Atkins and the Richmond Fire Department for their work.

Article 25 passed by voice vote.

Mr. Whitham declared the meeting adjourned at 10:01 AM.

Respectfully submitted,


Annette Tokunaga
Richmond Town Clerk
March 18, 2020