

2013

2013 Town of Richmond Annual Town Meeting Minutes

Richmond, Me.

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TOWN OF RICHMOND
2013 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT MINUTES

Sagadahoc, ss.

State of Maine

TO: Scott MacMaster, 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 the 2nd day of April, 2013 at **6:00** o'clock in the evening, then and there to act upon the following articles to wit:

ARTICLE 1. To **elect a Moderator**, by secret ballot, who will preside at said meeting using the "Town Meeting, Rules and Procedure" handout. The "Maine Moderator's Guide" shall be utilized by the moderator if he/she cannot resolve any procedural conflict with the handout.

- On April 2, 2013 at 6:10pm., Town Clerk, Sharon Woodward, read the introduction to the Town Meeting Warrant Article #1 for the election of the moderator. William Dale (Jensen & Baird attorney) was nominated. No additional nominations were made. Three written ballots for Mr. Dale were cast by the selectmen. After counted by Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk James Valley, Mr. Dale was sworn in by the Town Clerk.
- All those in attendance stood for a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- Fire Chief, Matt Roberge presented to Shawn Pierce(retired Assist. Fire Chief) with a plaque for 36 years of service with the Town of Richmond Fire Department.
- Town Manager, Marian Anderson also gave recognition to Ryan Chandler former CEO with the Town of Richmond who took a job with the State of Maine.

ARTICLE 2. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Administrative** Account.

Board of Selectmen Requests:	\$244,618
Budget Committee Recommends:	\$244,418

- The moderator read **Article 2**, and a motion was made and seconded to accept the Article as written with the Budget Committee's recommendation. After discussion, the Moderator called for a vote by show of hands with purple cards and **declared that Article 2 passed with the Budget Committee's Recommendation.**

ARTICLE 3. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Professional Services/Dues** Account.

Board of Selectmen Requests: \$31,550
Budget Committee Recommends: \$31,550

- The Moderator read **Article 3**, and a motion was made and seconded to accept the Article as written. After discussion, the Moderator called for a vote by show of hands and **declared that Article 3 passed as written with the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee's recommendations.**

ARTICLE 4. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Boards & Committees** Account.

Board of Selectmen Requests: \$15,540
Budget Committee Recommends: \$15,540

- The Moderator read **Article 4**, and a motion was made and seconded to accept the Article as written. After discussion, the Moderator called for a vote by show of hands and **declared that Article 4 passed as written with Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee's Recommendations.**

ARTICLE 5. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Fire Department Operations** Account.

Board of Selectmen Requests: \$70,589
Budget Committee Recommends: \$71,339

- The Moderator read **Article 5**, and a motion was made and seconded to accept the Budget Committee recommendation. After discussion, the Moderator called for a vote by show of hands and **declared that Article 5 passed as written with the Budget Committee's Recommendation.**

ARTICLE 6. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Town Vehicles Fuel** Account.

Board of Selectmen Requests: \$53,675
Budget Committee Recommends: \$53,675

- The Moderator read **Article 6**, and a motion was made and seconded to accept the Article as written. After discussion, the Moderator called for a vote by show of hands and **declared that Article 6 passed as written with the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee's recommendations.**

ARTICLE 7. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Public Works Department Operations** Account.

Board of Selectmen Requests: \$315,976
Budget Committee Recommends: \$315,976

- The Moderator read **Article 7**, and a motion was made and seconded to accept the Article as written. After discussion, the Moderator called for a vote by show of hands and **declared that Article 7 passed as written with the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee's recommendations.**

ARTICLE 8. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Police Department** Account.

Board of Selectmen Requests: \$240,882
Budget Committee Recommends: \$240,882

- The Moderator read **Article 8**, and a motion was made and seconded to accept the Article as written. After discussion, the Moderator called for a vote by show of hands and **declared that Article 8 passed as written with the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee's recommendations.**

ARTICLE 9. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Animal Control** Account.

Board of Selectmen Requests: \$7,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$7,000

- The Moderator read **Article 9**, and a motion was made and seconded to accept the Article as written. After discussion, the Moderator called for a vote by show of hands and **declared that Article 9 passed as written with the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee's recommendations.**

ARTICLE 10. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Public Safety** Account.

Board of Selectmen Requests: \$113,900
Budget Committee Recommends: \$113,900

- The Moderator read **Article 10**, and a motion was made and seconded to accept the Article as written with Selectmen request. After discussion, the Moderator called for a vote by show of hands and **declared that Article 10 passed as written with the Board of Selectmen's recommendation.**

ARTICLE 11. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Combined Code Enforcement Officer/Plumbing Inspector** Account.

Board of Selectmen Requests: \$30,095
Budget Committee Recommends: \$30,095

- The Moderator read **Article 11**, and a motion was made and seconded to accept the Article as written with Selectmen request. After discussion, the Moderator called for a vote by show of hands and **declared that Article 11 passes as written with the Board of Selectmen’s recommendation.**

ARTICLE 12. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Parks and Cemeteries** (Fort Richmond Park, Cemeteries, etc.) Account.

Board of Selectmen Requests: \$17,596
 Budget Committee Recommends: \$17,596

- The Moderator read **Article 12**, and a motion was made and seconded to accept the Article as written with the Selectmen request. After discussion, the Moderator called for a vote by show of hands and **declared that Article 12 passed as written with the Board of Selectmen’s recommendation.**

ARTICLE 13. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Summer Recreation Activity** Account; and to see if the Town will vote to hold any Summer Recreation program user fees collected in a Summer Recreation Reserve Account and to appropriate such Summer Reserve Account funds as are necessary to cover Summer Recreation program cost shortfalls.

Board of Selectmen Requests: \$22,290
 Budget Committee Recommends: \$7,500

- The Moderator read Article 13, and a motion was made and seconded to accept the Article as written with the Budget Committee recommendation. Motion was made to allow non-residence to be allowed to speak at the meeting. We need at least 7 people of the house to vote to accept this motion. If all disagree to hear the gentlemen/lady then Fred Browne can speak first before vote.
- Motion to cease debate. Seconded. We need to vote on cease debate. The Moderator called for a vote by a show of hands. The count was 76 in favor and 23 oppose to cease debate. The 4 counters were James Valley, Laurisa Loon, Vicky Boundy and Scott MacMaster.
- Motion to accept Budget Committee recommendations. After discussion, the Moderator called for a vote by show of hands and declared that Article 13 failed as written with the Budget Committee recommendations.
- Motion was made and seconded to accept the Article 13 as written with the Selectmen request. Discussion. Tim Arnold asked for friendly amendment. (While writing it down, public comment was ongoing.) Tim Arnold friendly amendment “I (Tim Arnold) to make a motion to take the monies the Summer Recreation Director collects and put up into a reserve for the following year.” \$65.00 for following year. Seconded. Discussion.

- Rose Beckwith, Summer Recreation Director was asked what the fee to participate in the program was going to be for this coming year (2013). She said from \$65.00 to \$75.00 for residents and \$150.00 for the out-of-town residents.
- Motion to cease debate. Seconded. The Moderator called for a vote by a show of hands and declared passed to cease debate.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept Article 13 with the friendly amendment. The moderator called for a count by a show of hands which the counters need to tally. The vote was in favor 58 and opposed 32. The moderator **declared that Article 13 with the Board of Selectmen's recommendation and the friendly amendment "to take the monies the Summer Recreation Director collects from participants and put those monies into a reserve account for this same purpose for the following year" passed.**
- A motion was made to take a 15 minute break. Seconded. The moderator called for a vote by a show of hands and declared the motion was defeated.

ARTICLE 14.

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Senior Services** Account.

Board of Selectmen Requests:	\$7,500
Budget Committee Recommends:	\$7,500

- The Moderator read **Article 14**, and a motion was made and seconded to accept as written with the Board of Selectmen request and Budget Committee recommendations. Discussion.
- Motion was made to allow Laurie Saunders from Gardiner speak. The moderator asked for a show of hands and declared the vote to let her speak, passed. Discussion.
- A motion was made by Nellie Blagden to amend the article to let the Seniors have the same amount as Summer Recreation Dept. She changed her mind on the wording to amend to change **Article 14** from \$7,500 to be changed to \$12,000. Then she changed her mind for a final time to have a friendly amendment of the amount in lieu of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommendations from \$7,500 to the amount of \$11,615. The motion was seconded after discussion, the Moderator called for a vote by a show of hands for the new amount and **declared that Article 14 passed with the new amount of \$11,615.**

ARTICLE 15.

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Solid Waste/Recycling** Account.

Board of Selectmen Requests:	\$43,900
Budget Committee Recommends:	\$43,900

- The Moderator read **Article 15**, and a motion was made and seconded to accept

the Article as written. After discussion, the Moderator called for a vote by a show of hands and **declared the Article 15 passed as written with the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee's recommendations.**

ARTICLE 16. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Isaac F. Umberhine **Public Library** Account.

Board of Selectmen Requests: \$30,804
Budget Committee Recommends: \$30,804

- The Moderator read **Article 16**, and a motion was made and seconded to accept the Article as written with the Board of Selectmen's recommendation. After discussion, the Moderator called for a vote by a show of hands and **declared that Article 16 passed with Board of Selectmen's recommendations.**

ARTICLE 17-24 GROUPED TOGETHER

ARTICLE 17. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Intergovernmental** Account.

Board of Selectmen Requests: \$461,455
Budget Committee Recommends: \$461,455

ARTICLE 18. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Benefits** Account.

Board of Selectmen Requests: \$250,350
Budget Committee Recommends: \$250,350

A motion is made for a friendly amendment on **Article 18** to reduce the amount from \$250,350 to \$230,850 for the 2 police officers that are gone; discussion. The Moderator called for a vote by show of hands and **declared Article 18 passed with the new amount of \$230,850.**

ARTICLE 19. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Insurance** Account.

Board of Selectmen Requests: \$58,600
Budget Committee Recommends: \$58,600

ARTICLE 20. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **General Assistance** Account and the R.E.A.P. Account.

Board of Selectmen Requests: \$25,000
Budget Committee Recommends: \$25,000

ARTICLE 21. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Debt**

Expense Account.

Board of Selectmen Requests: \$420,825

Budget Committee Recommends: \$420,825

ARTICLE 22. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Capital Outlay** Account.

Board of Selectmen Requests: \$72,550

Budget Committee Recommends: \$72,550

ARTICLE 23. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Legal Services** Account.

Board of Selectmen Requests: \$25,000

Budget Committee Recommends: \$25,000

ARTICLE 24. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Reserve** Account.

Board of Selectmen Requests: \$74,400

Budget Committee Recommends: \$74,400

- Motion to consider **Articles 17, Article 18 as amended with reduced amount of \$230,850, Article 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 as a group** and seconded to accept with Budget Committee recommendations. After discussion, the Moderator called for a vote by a show of hands and **declared that Article 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 with Article 18 amended with the Budget Committee's recommendations, passed.**

ARTICLE 25. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000.00 towards the operation of the DASH unit by the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed Committee for the purpose of removal of milfoil from Pleasant Pond and surrounding water bodies, provided that the municipalities of Gardiner, West Gardiner and Litchfield make a similar contribution toward the operation of said unit.

Board of Selectmen Requests: Discussion

- The Moderator read **Article 25**, and a motion was made to accept as written. Motion was made to delete the wording (“provided that the municipalities of Gardiner, West Gardiner and Litchfield make a similar contribution toward the operation of said unit”) and seconded to accept the Article as written with the amendment. After discussion, the Moderator called for a vote by show of hands and **declared the Article 25 passed, as amended.**

ARTICLE 26. To see if the Town will vote to acquire the St. Matthias Episcopal Church land and buildings at or about 15 Spruce Street (Map U01, Lot 117) by acceptance of delivery of a deed from the Trustees of Diocesan Funds in the Diocese of Maine

on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems to be in the best interests of the Town and to appropriate \$5,000 from undesignated fund balance for the repair and maintenance of the property for fiscal year 2014 following transfer of the property to the Town.

Estimated Repairs/Maintenance: \$ 548.68 Water/Sewer
 \$1,825.00 Heat
 \$1,200.00 Electric
 \$1,426.32 Unexpected expenses

- The Moderator read Article 26, and a motion was made and seconded to accept the Article as written. Discussion. Motion to make an amendment to the vote on the 5,000 and anything over 5,000 that the place needs to be inspected or volunteers need to get the build fix.
- Provided no final agreement until another Town meeting vote. No further additional monies spent until June 2014 Town Meeting vote. Seconded. Discussion. The Moderator calls for a count. The vote is favor 28 opposed 30. Fails
- A motion is made to accept article as drafted. Discussion. Motion to make amendment until next year Town Meeting. Motion to put the \$5,000 into reserve until further date.
- Motion to table indefinitely; then motion withdrawn.
- Motion to amend to approve only if no use restriction in the deed on to the property. Seconded. Discussion. The moderator called for a vote by show of hands and declared amendment fails.
- Motion to close debate. Seconded. The Moderator called for a vote by show of hands and declared motion to cease debate passed.
- Motion to vote on **Article 26** as written and seconded to accept Article as written. The Moderator called for a count by a show of hands **and declared that Article 26 passed: Favor 35 Opposed 25. The Moderator declared that Article 26 passed as written.**

ARTICLE 27.

To see if the Town will vote to change the date of the Annual Town Meeting to the first Tuesday in June commencing with the 2014 Annual Town Meeting. (The Town's fiscal year shall remain July 1 to June 30.)

Board of Selectmen Requests: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

The Moderator read **Article 27**, a motion was made and seconded to accept the Article as written. Discussion. Motion was made to cease debate and seconded. The Moderator asked for a vote by show of hands and declared vote passed to cease debate.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Article as written. After discussion, the Moderator called for a vote by a show of hands and **declared that Article 27 was passed as written.**

ARTICLE 28. 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 August 10, 2013; second payment being due and payable on November 10, 2013; third payment being due and payable on February 10, 2014; and fourth payment being due and payable on May 10, 2014.

Board of Selectmen Requests: Approval

- The Moderator read **Article 28**, motion was made to table indefinitely. Discussion. Motion was made to dismiss **Article 28** and seconded. The Moderator called for a count by a show of hands. The count was in **Favor 14 Opposed 17**. The citizens asked for a recount. The Moderator called for a recount by a show of hands and **declared Article 28 dismissed the vote was Favor 27 Opposed 17**.

ARTICLE 29-36 GROUPED TOGETHER

ARTICLE 29. To see if the Town will vote to set the **interest rate** charged annually on all **property taxes remaining unpaid** after the due dates pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 505(4).

Board of Selectmen Requests: 7%

ARTICLE 30. To see if the Town will vote to set the **interest rate** to be paid by the Town on **abated taxes** pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506-A, and to authorize such interest paid or abatements granted to be appropriated from overlay funds or, if necessary, from undesignated fund balance.

Board of Selectmen Requests: 3%

ARTICLE 31. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the tax collector or treasurer to **accept prepayments** of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506, with no interest to accrue on any excess prepaid over the amount finally committed.

Board of Selectmen Requests: Approval

ARTICLE 32. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for State, federal (including Community Development Block Grants) and other grants on the Town's behalf for purposes deemed by the Selectmen to be in the best interests of the Town; to accept such grants, including, when necessary, the authority to sign contract 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 2013-2014.

Board of Selectmen Requests: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

- A motion is made to amend **Article 32** stating no grant or monies in excess of \$10,000 maybe spent without prior Town meeting approval and seconded. After discussion the Moderator called for a vote by a show of hands, and **declared the amendment defeated.**

ARTICLE 33.

To see what action the Town will vote to take regarding the **appropriation of all money received from** State Municipal Revenue Sharing; General Assistance Reimbursement; State Aid to Education; Civil Emergency/E.M.A. Funds; 50% of all snowmobile registration reimbursement; Tree Growth reimbursement; Veterans Exemption reimbursement; State Park fee sharing; Homestead Property Exemption reimbursement; fees from the State through Public Library State Aid per Capita; and all other fees and funding not legally and specifically designated as reimbursements or credits to accounts or legally designated for other purposes.

Board of Selectmen Requests: Reduce Tax Commitment, except as otherwise provided by law
 Budget Committee Recommends: Same

- A motion to amend **Article 33** to delete (50%) out of the article. Seconded. Motion to amend on the wording to state “Reduce Tax Commitment, except as otherwise provided by law and as may otherwise be provided by Article 34. After discussion the Moderator called for a vote on the amendment by a show of hands, the Moderator **declared the amendment on Article 33 was passed.**

ARTICLE 34.

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 outdoor recreation purposes at no charge.

Board of Selectmen Requests: Reduce Tax Commitment, except as otherwise provided by law

ARTICLE 35.

To see what action the Town will vote to take regarding the use of all money received from the state Local Roads Assistance Program (or any similar program intended to subsidize local roads) for the maintenance of town ways.

Board of Selectmen Requests: Dedicate to eligible road improvements as defined by current MDOT standards
 Budget Committee Recommends: Same

ARTICLE 36.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell by sealed bid or public auction and to convey by quitclaim deed any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon, or, if the property is prior-owner occupied residential property, to convey the property to the prior owner upon payment in full of all taxes, interest and charges incurred by the Town within 90 days of notice to the prior owner of the repurchase opportunity.

- Motion was made to consider taking **Articles 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 35, and 36 as a group** and accept as written and seconded. Discussion.
- Motion was made to cease debate. Seconded. The Moderator calls for a vote of show of hands, the Moderator declared cease debate is passed.
- Motion was made and seconded to accept **Articles 29, 30, 31, 32, Article 33 as amended, 34, 35 and 36 as a group**. The Moderator called for a vote with a show of hands and **declared that Articles 29, 30, 31, 32, Article 33 with amendment, 34, 35 and 36 were passed, as written, with an amendment to Article 33.**

ARTICLE 37.

To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for Richmond by State law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.

Board of Selectmen Requests: Approval
 Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

NOTE: If this article is needed, a written ballot is required.

- A motion was made to dismiss **Article 37** there was no need because we did not have a tax commitment that was greater than the property tax levy limit. The Moderator called for a vote by show of hands and **declared Article 37 was dismissed.**
- A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Town Meeting. The Moderator called for a vote by show of hands and **declared the Town Meeting adjourned at 11:10pm.**

A True Attested Copy of the Warrant Minutes

Sharon Woodward
 Town Clerk

- GIVEN UNTO OUR HANDS THIS 20th DAY OF March 2013.

Board of Selectmen
Richmond, Maine

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Selectman

Selectman

Selectman

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 - 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 of the Town of Richmond