

Town of
RICHMOND
Massachusetts



Annual Report 2010



RICHMOND TOWN HALL

Monday through Friday – 8:30 – 2:30

(413) 698-3355

Town Administrator – Matt Kerwood
698-3882

Monday through Friday – 9:00 – 4:00

Tax Collector – Frederick Schubert
698-3315

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday – 9:00 – Noon

Town Clerk – Kate Zahn
698-3555

Tuesday through Friday – 8:30 – 1:30

Town Treasurer – Amy Lane
698-3556

Monday, Thursday – 9:00 am – 4:00

Town Secretary – Kate Zahn
698-3355

Monday through Friday – 8:30 – 1:30

Board of Selectmen

1st, 2nd and 4th Wednesday – 6:00 pm

Board of Assessors

2nd Wednesday – 7:00 pm

Board of Health

1st Tuesday – 6:30 pm

Planning Board

2nd Monday – 6:30 pm

Conservation Commission

2nd Tuesday – 7:00 pm

Building Inspector – Paul Greene

1st, 2nd and 4th Wednesday – 10:30 am - 12:00

Zoning Enforcement Officer – Craig Swinson
698-2525

1st, 2nd and 4th Wednesday – 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Chief of Police – William Bullett
(442-3693)

2nd and 4th Wednesday – 7:30 pm

Animal Control Officer

John Springstube
232-7038



In Memoriam



*Each year we honor town officers and employees
who have passed away.*

In 2010/2011 we lost the following:

Lillian Casman

Russell Chapman

George Crawford

Oscar Frank

Mim Kimball

David Morrison

Marylyn Ratcliff

Virginia van Allman

This town report is dedicated to their memory.

Town of Richmond

Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORTS of the Town Officers



For the Year Ending
December 31, 2010

FY 2011 Tax Rate - \$ 9.04
FY 2011 Total Valuation - \$ 440,153,324
FY 2011 Total Tax Levied - \$ 3,979,348.

Population - 1,355 (Local Census)
Population - 1,475 (Federal Census - 2010)
Area of Town - 19.07 Square Miles



TABLE OF CONTENTS



Agricultural Commission	78	Planning Board	48
Ambulance Service	57	Police Chief.	53
Animal Control Officer.	54	Recreation Committee	49
Animal Inspector	54	Scholarship	85
Board of Assessors	38	School Committee.	72
Board of Health.	62	Shaker Mountain School Report	75
Board of Selectmen/ Sewer Commissioners	7	Tax Collector.	41
Building Inspector.	60	Tax Title Custodian	86
Cable Advisory Committee	79	Town Administrator	43
Cemetery Superintendent.	67	Town Clerk	39
Community Health Association	63	Town Meeting (Annual) Warrant, May 25, 2011.	10
Council on Aging	51	Explanations	24
Conservation Commission	44	Town Meeting (Annual) Warrant, May 26, 2010.	93
Cultural Council	80	Town Meeting (Special) Warrant, May 25, 2011.	8
Department of Public Works.	65	Town Meeting (Special) Warrant, May 26, 2010.	91
Directory of Town Officials	3	Treasurer	40
Emergency Management Director	59	Tree Warden	58
Energy Conservation Committee	81	Veterans Services	71
Fence Viewers	82	Volunteer Fire Department	55
Finance Committee.	52	Zoning Board of Appeals	87
Free Public Library	68	Zoning Enforcement Officer	61
Friends of Richmond Library	70		
Historical Commission	46		
Land Trust	83		





DIRECTORY OF TOWN OFFICIALS

ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

Selectmen

Alan B. Hanson, 2012

Roger W. Manzolini, 2011

Marguerite J. Rawson, 2013

Chair

Board of Health

Anthony Segal, 2012

Vacant to be filled in May Election 2014

Dean Fulco, 2013

Andrew Fisher, 2012

Diane Pero, 2013

School Committee

Dewey Wyatt, 2012

To be filled in May Election, 2014

Christine Triantos, 2010

Chair

Finance Committee

Eileen Martin, 2012

Robert Gniadek, 2011

John Mason, 2013

William Martin, 2012

Chair

Diane Pero, 2013

Planning Board

Linda Morse, 2012

John Hanson, 2015

Michael Kelly, 2014

John Vittori, 2011

Chair

Paula Patterson, 2013

Library Trustees

Cindy Morrison, 2011

Lisa Donfried, 2012

Adeline Ellis, 2013

Chair

Moderator

John H. Whitney, 2011

* *The date following each name denotes the expiration of the term of office.*

APPOINTED OFFICERS

** As of January 1st, 2010*

Town Administrator - Matt Kerwood
Animal Control Officer - John Springstube
Assessors' Clerk - Craig Swinson
Board of Health Agent - John Olander
Chief Procurement Officer - Matt Kerwood
Constables - Eric Latimer, Thomas Grizey, Francis Malnati
Custodian of Tax Title Property - Amy Lane
Custodian of Town Hall - Bob Kingsley
Emergency Management Director - Thomas Grizey
Emergency Management Assistant Director - Paul Sintoni
Fence Viewers - Alan B. Hanson, Stanley Iwanowicz, Roger W. Manzolini
Field Driver - Stanley Iwanowicz
Fire Chief - Paul Sintoni
Hazardous Waste Response Coordinator - Vacant
Inspector of Animals - John Springstube
Inspector of Buildings - Paul Greene; **Assistant** - James Vosburgh
Inspector of Gas and Assistant Inspector of Plumbing - Robert Gennari
Inspector of Plumbing and Assistant Inspector of Gas - William Korte
Inspector of Oil Burners - Paul Sintoni
Inspector of Wiring - Charles Alessio; **Alternate** - Thomas Grizey
Library Director - Kristin Smith
Police Chief - William Bullet
Sexual Harassment Grievance Officer - Matt Kerwood
Superintendent of Cemeteries - Stephen Parsons
Superintendent of Department of Public Works - Gerald M. Coppola
Superintendent of Dutch Elm and Gypsy Moth - Gerald M. Coppola
Town Accountant - Angela Cooke
Town Counsel - Sarah H. Bell
Town Secretary - Kate Zahn
Tree Warden - Adam Weinberg
Veterans' Agent - Roseann Frieri
Zoning Enforcement Officer - Craig Swinson

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Paula Patterson, Delegate

Board of Appeals

Leslie Abramowitz, 2010, *Chair*

Kathleen Noto, 2010

Richard Berlin (*Associate*), 2010

John Mason, 2012

Steven Patterson, 2009

Christine Abramowitz (*Associate*), 2012

Budget Advisory Committee

Board of Selectmen

Roger W. Manzolini

Alan B. Hanson

Marguerite J. Rawson

Finance Committee

Robert Gniadek

John Mason

William Martin

Diane Pero

Eileen Martin

APPOINTED OFFICERS (Continued)

Conservation Commission

Patrick Seckler, 2012
Charles Pero, 2012
Robert Dahlen, 2012

Holly Stover, 2012
Chair
Staff - Gail Palmer, Conservation Administrator

Freya Segal, 2012
Philip Lund, 2011
Barbara Frank, 2013

Historical Commission

William Edwards, 2012
Virginia Larkin, 2013

Gloria Morse, 2012
Chair

Allison Edwards, 2012
Beverly Marion, 2012
Cheryl Chapman, 2010

Recreation Committee

Ruth Hanavan, 2013
Christopher Begley, 2013

Jeff Konowitch, 2013
Chair

Tricia Wyatt, 2013
Holly Freadman, 2013

Road Advisory Committee

Chairman, Board of Selectmen – Roger Mongolini
Chairman, Conservation Commission – Holly Stover
Chairman, Planning Board – John Hanson
Chairman, Finance Committee – Robert Gniadek
DPW Superintendent – Gerald Coppola
Tree Warden – Adam Weinberg

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority

Alan B. Hanson, Delegate

Registrars of Voters

Edward Forget, 2012
Kathleen McMahon, 2012
Stephen Murray, 2011

Cultural Council

Ruma Godlin, 2013
Karen Cellini-Corcoran, 2014
Regina Serkin, 2013

Kathleen Basile, 2011
Chair

Christine Triantos, 2011
Kathleen Fabrizio, 2014
Sandra Flannery, 2013

APPOINTED OFFICERS *(Continued)*

Assessors

Jeffrey Daigle

Peter Cohen

Raymond Supranowicz

Chair

Town Clerk

Kate Zahn

Collector of Taxes

Frederick W. Schubert

Town Treasurer

Amy Lane

Council on Aging

Joanne Lahey, 2012

Chair

Kathleen McMahon, 2012

William Bullett, 2012

Helen Kingsley, 2012

Carolyn Clairmont, *(Associate)* 2012

Betsy Bemis, *(Associate)* 2013

Patricia Malnati, 2012

Road Crew

Michael Lamke, Equipment Operator/Mechanic

Robert Navin, Equipment Operator - Grade 3

Sewer Crew

Thomas Grizey, Sewer Operator

Matt Kerwood, Administrator

Cable Television Advisory Committee

Craig Swinson

Margaret Lund

Lori Foley Green

Chair

Sewer Advisory Committee

Lori Foley Green

James Mooney

Lawrence Goggia

Jack O'Brien

Sara Schultz



BOARD OF SELECTMEN / SEWER COMMISSIONERS

It continues to be an honor to serve the residents of Richmond as your Selectmen. This has once again been a busy year as we have worked to ensure that the Town remains an affordable and hospitable place to live. Accomplishments and highlights of the past year include:

- Under the leadership of the Town Administrator and Town Treasurer we refinanced the outstanding balance of the school debt. This refinancing will result in a saving of roughly \$485,000 over the next ten years beginning in 2012. This was a major undertaking and we thank the Town Administrator and Town Treasurer for all their efforts.

- Again under the leadership of the Town Administrator and Town Treasurer, the accounting systems of the Town and school have been integrated. This has resulted in greater efficiencies and reduced the opportunity for human error.

- We continued to address inflow problems with the sewer system to reduce the amount of unwanted groundwater entering the sewer system.

- We continued to work with the Tax Collector on an aggressive tax collection effort to eliminate back taxes owed to the Town. We are pleased to report that this has resulted in the collection of a substantial amount of back taxes; however, outstanding taxes remain and the Collector is working to address the matter. We thank the Collector for his diligence.

- Thanks to the Town Administrator and Stevan Patterson, Chairman of the Energy Conservation Committee, improvements were made to Town buildings, including the Library and the Fire House, to reduce electric consumption. Each building has undergone an electrical retrofit that included upgrading all interior lighting fixtures to those that are more energy efficient, and the installation of motion activated light switches in all classrooms at the school.

We certainly want to thank all the hard working employees, as well as the elected and appointed officials, who help to make Richmond the town that we are all proud of. We would like to especially thank Nancy Schubert who retired this year after 10 years of dedicated service. We also would like to note the passing of Building Inspector Walter Potash and Town Clerk Dave Morrison. Their contributions to the Town were invaluable and they are missed. Our Town Administrator, Matt Kerwood continues to be a great asset to Richmond and continues to advance initiatives to better our great town.

ROGER W. MANZOLINI, CHAIRMAN
ALAN B. HANSON
MARGUERITE J. RAWSON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/SEWER COMMISSIONERS



WARRANT FOR THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Berkshire, ss

To any of the Constables of the Town of Richmond in said County, Greetings:

In the name of said Commonwealth, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Richmond qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Richmond Consolidated School of said Richmond on May 25, 2011 at 7:00 PM and then and there to act upon the following articles:

ARTICLE 1- To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$43,468 to the Winter Roads Account. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 2- To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate from Overlay Surplus the sum of \$30,000 for activities associated with the continued remediation and foreclosure activities being undertaken by the town for the property located at 40 Firehouse Lane. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 3- To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate from Overlay Surplus the sum of \$22,000 for the purchase of new radios for the Fire Department. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 4- To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate from Overlay Surplus the sum of \$20,000 for the purchase of new "Jaws of Life" for the Fire Department. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 5- To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate from Overlay Surplus the sum of \$3,500 for the purchase of a Blitzfire Monitor 4 for the Fire Department. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 6- To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate from Overlay Surplus the sum of \$14,000 for the purchase of a thermal imager for the Fire Department. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 7- To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate from Certified Free cash the sum of \$85,000 to the Stabilization Account. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 8- To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate from Sewer Retained Earning the sum of \$20,000 to the Sewer Expense Account. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

Given under our hands this 13th day of April, 2011

ROGER W. MANZOLINI, CHAIRMAN
ALAN B. HANSON
MARGUERITE J. RAWSON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

I have posted up true and attested copies hereof, one at the Richmond Town Hall, one at the Richmond Post Office, one at the Bartlett's Orchard Building, and one at the Richmond Shores Civic Association bulletin board, fourteen days, at least, before said meeting.

Constable

Date



WARRANT FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Berkshire, ss

To any of the Constables of the Town of Richmond in said County, Greetings:

In the name of said Commonwealth, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Richmond qualified to vote in town affairs to meet in the Consolidated School of said Richmond on May 25, 2011, at 7:30 PM, and then and there to act upon the following:

[Consent Calendar- Articles 1-4]

ARTICLE 1- To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to determine the manner of repairing the highways and caring for the cemeteries for the year.

ARTICLE 2- To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$500 from perpetual care fund interest to the cemetery expense account. (Approved by the Finance Committee)

ARTICLE 3- 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 establishment of revolving funds for the purposes 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:

Council on Aging transportation, elder care and other services	\$20,000
Board of Health Home composting bins	\$2,000
Board of Health recycling bins	\$2,000
Inspection Services/Selectmen	\$15,000
Berkshire Scenic Mountain Act/Conservation Commission	\$5,000
Richmond Preschool/School Committee	\$25,000
Burning permits/Fire Department	\$500
Hancock Fire Services	\$2,000
Chapter 148A Hearings Officer	\$1,000
Richmond Pond Weed Removal	\$5,000

(Approved by the Finance Committee)

ARTICLE 4- To see if the town will vote to appropriate and accept any monies appropriated for use by the Massachusetts Highway Department for Chapter 90 highway aid for maintenance and reconstruction of Town roads and to fund the appropriation by transferring said

amounts from available funds. Said funds shall carry over from year to year until spent by the town and shall be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in accordance with Chapter 90 of the General Laws. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 5- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as shall be deemed necessary for the upkeep and repair of the buildings, equipment, highways and cemeteries and for all other charges and expenses of the town for the year and to set the salaries and compensation of all elected officers of the town as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws. [Fiscal Year 2011 amounts are shown for comparative purposes. Please see the Explanations section following this warrant for more information] *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

		Final	Draft		
General Government		FY 2011	FY 2012	Increase	% Change
1	Assessors Salaries (Chair-1200, Mbrs-1200)	3,600	3,600	-	0.0%
2	Assessors Expenses	22,534	22,534	-	0.0%
3	Assessor Clerk	23,023	23,600	577	2.5%
4	Audit	15,000	15,000	-	0.0%
5	Moderator Salary	80	-	(80)	-100.0%
6	Selectmen Salaries Each Member-\$1,750	5,250	5,250	-	0.0%
7	Selectmen Expenses	2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
8	Town Clerk Salary	9,002	9,002	-	0.0%
9	Town Clerk Expenses	2,422	2,422	-	0.0%
10	Treasurer Salary	17,530	23,971	6,441	36.7%
11	Certification Incentives	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
12	Treasurer's Expenses	2,200	2,200	-	0.0%
13	Town Accountant Salary	14,607	14,607	-	0.0%
14	Town Accountant Expenses	950	950	-	0.0%
15	Tax Collector Salary	13,280	13,612	332	2.5%
16	Tax Collector/Treasurer Assistant	4,000	4,000	-	0.0%
17	Tax Collector Expenses	7,590	7,590	-	0.0%
18	Town Secretary	20,867	24,600	3,733	17.9%
19	Town Counsel	4,000	4,000	-	0.0%
20	Town Report	5,500	5,000	(500)	-9.1%
21	Town Hall	17,100	18,000	900	5.3%
22	Elections and Voter Registration	4,400	4,400	-	0.0%
23	Town Admin Salary	50,881	52,154	1,273	2.5%
24	Town Admin Expenses	1,400	1,500	100	7.1%
25	Conservation Commission Expenses	1,118	1,000	(118)	-10.6%
26	Conservation Agent Salary	10,504	10,768	264	2.5%
27	Historical Commission	361	360	(1)	-0.3%
28	Planning Board	285	285	-	0.0%
29	Recreation Committee	4,750	4,750	-	0.0%
30	Council on Aging	2,375	2,375	-	0.0%
31	Finance Committee	-	-	-	-

Richmond Annual Town Report - 2010

32 Tax Collection Services	5,000	5,000	-	0.0%
<i>General Government- TOTAL</i>	<i>272,609</i>	<i>285,530</i>	<i>12,921</i>	<i>4.7%</i>

	Final	Draft		
<u>Protection- Persons and Property</u>	FY 2011	FY 2012	Increase	% Change
33 Police Chief Salary	2,499	2,562	63	2.5%
34 Police Dept. Expenses	1,128	1,000	(128)	-11.3%
35 County Communications	9,410	9,691	281	3.0%
36 Constable Salaries	1,250	1,250	-	0.0%
37 Constable Expenses	250	250	-	0.0%
38 Animal Control Officer Sal	2,499	2,562	63	2.5%
39 Animal Control Off Expenses	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
40 Fire Department	46,652	47,856	1,204	2.6%
41 Fire House Rent	8,000	8,000	-	0.0%
42 Tree Warden	6,935	6,935	-	0.0%
43 Emergency Management	3,124	6,625	3,501	112.1%
44 Dutch Elm	-	-	-	-
45 Insect Pest Control	-	-	-	-
46 Building Inspector Salary	5,621	5,762	141	2.5%
47 Building Inspector Expenses	1,995	1,995	-	0.0%
48 Building Inspector (Alter)	240	240	-	0.0%
49 Zoning Enforcement Officer	3,025	3,100	75	2.5%
50 Zoning Enforcement Expenses	230	230	-	0.0%
51 Inspection Services	100	100	-	0.0%
<i>Protection- TOTAL</i>	<i>93958</i>	<i>99158</i>	<i>5,200</i>	<i>5.5%</i>

	Final	Draft		
<u>Health</u>	FY 2011	FY 2012	Increase	% Change
52 Board of Health Salaries	850	850	-	0.0%
Chairman- \$250				
Members- \$150 each				
53 Board of Health Expenses	2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
54 Board of Health Agent Salary	9,194	9,425	231	2.5%
55 Board of Health Agent Expenses	1,260	1,260	-	0.0%
56 Animal Inspector	192	192	-	0.0%
57 Rubbish Disposal	149,000	140,000	(9,000)	-6.0%
58 Community Health Services	19,475	19,475	-	0.0%
59 Nuisance Abatement	2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
<i>Health- TOTAL</i>	<i>183,971</i>	<i>175,202</i>	<i>(8,769)</i>	<i>-4.8%</i>

	Final	Draft		
<u>Highways</u>	FY 2011	FY 2012	Increase	% Change
60 Machinery Maintenance	50,000	52,500	2,500	5.0%
61 Road Construction	53,550	56,000	2,450	4.6%
62 Road Maintenance	91,143	96,191	5,048	5.5%
63 Town Garage	14,010	14,400	390	2.8%
64 Winter Roads	136,420	187,800	51,380	37.7%

Richmond Annual Town Report - 2010

65 Gravel Roads	38,000	38,000	-	0.0%
66 Vacation and Sick Pay	12,282	12,874	592	4.8%
67 Private Roads	3,000	3,500	500	16.7%
68 Beaver Control	3,000	3,000	-	0.0%
Highways- TOTAL	401,405	464,265	62,860	15.7%

Unclassified	Final FY 2011	Draft FY 2012	Increase	% Change
69 Berkshire County Retirement	82,290	101,502	19,212	23.3%
70 Berkshire Regional Planning Commission	1,020	1,020	-	0.0%
71 Cemetery Superintendent Salary	5,355	5,489	134	2.5%
72 Cemetery Expenses	1,000	1,500	500	50.0%
73 Group Insurance	95,000	104,219	9,219	9.7%
74 Insurance and Bonding	66,000	66,000	-	0.0%
75 Library	47,858	48,718	860	1.8%
76 Library Rent	11,100	11,100	-	0.0%
77 Memorial Day	140	100	(40)	-28.6%
78 Stationery and Office Supply	9,120	9,200	80	0.9%
79 Unemployment Reserve	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%
80 Banking Services	450	450	-	0.0%
81 Computer Payroll Services	4,500	2,500	(2,000)	-44.4%
82 Medicare	33,500	34,000	500	1.5%
83 Veteran's Agent Salary	1,010	1,035	25	2.5%
84 Veterans' Aid	10,000	5,000	(5,000)	-50.0%
85 Stray Animals	100	100	-	0.0%
86 Town Building Maint.	12,400	12,400	-	0.0%
87 Town Beach	9,000	9,000	-	0.0%
88 Legal Advertising	4,000	7,000	3,000	75.0%
89 Group Purchasing	600	400	(200)	-33.3%
91 Training	700	700	-	0.0%
92 Office Equipment/Software Support	12,000	15,000	3,000	25.0%
93 Richmond Pond Weeds	10,000	10,000	-	0.0%
94 Misc Expenses	700	700	-	0.0%
Unclassified- TOTAL	418,843	448,132.875	29,290	7.0%
			-	
LINE ITEM BUDGET- TOTAL	1370786	1472287.875	101,502	7.4%

ARTICLE 6- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the removal of dead and diseased trees within town right of ways. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 7- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to the reserve fund. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 8- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,846,878 for the support of the schools. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 9- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,000 for special education expenses. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 10- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,500 for the conservation land trust fund. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 11- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the stabilization fund. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 12- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for a Town Hall Repair Stabilization Fund, the purpose of which is to make repairs and upgrades to the Town Hall. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 13- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000 for a food and fuel emergency assistance program to be administered by the Board of Selectmen for the benefit of low income Richmond residents, with any unexpended funds to carry over from year to year until expended by the town. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 14- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate to the sum of \$5,000 for water quality testing and mitigation at the former town landfill. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 15- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$146,314 for a principal and interest payment on the school bond. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 16- To see if the town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$216,338 to operate the sewer enterprise, as follows:

Salaries	\$15,000
Expenses	17,977
Emergency Reserve	10,000
Debt Payment	173,361
Total	\$216,338

And that \$216,338 to be raised as follows:

Department receipts	\$216,338
Total	\$216,338

(Approved by the Finance Committee)

ARTICLE 17- To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$45,000 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 Comstar 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. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 18- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 for the removal of trees and for monument repair within town cemeteries. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 19- To see if the Town would vote to amend the Town by-laws in Section X, Section 8(H) by striking the words on or after June 1st and replacing them with the words on or after April 1st

ARTICLE 20- To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town by-laws by striking Chapter X Section 9 in its entirety and replacing it with the following new Section:

(Chapter X Section 9) Special Events Permit

Any person or organization that seeks to conduct a special cultural, educational, or fund raising event, such as but not limited to, art shows, auctions, festivals, bazaars, community picnics, breakfasts, dinners, concerts, dance events, or similar events may be required to obtain approval from the Board of Selectmen if such event is to be held on or affect town streets, sidewalks, or property or require services beyond those the town provides its citizens under normal everyday circumstances. The Selectmen may require a public hearing to consider any application filed under this section and any permit issued may include conditions relating to hours of operation, attendance, public safety, traffic control, parking, noise, odor, lighting, impact on the neighborhood and on municipal facilities, and a requirement that the applicant post a bond. Any person or organization granted a permit under this section shall comply with all other local, state, federal licensing or permitting requirements for said event. Failure to obtain any required licenses or permits shall result in the revocation of the permit granted under this section and a fine of \$100.

ARTICLE 21- To see if the Town will vote accept Clause 56 of MGL Chapter 59 Section 5 which will allow members of the Massachusetts National Guard or military reservist who are on active duty to obtain a reduction of all or part of their real and personal property taxes for any fiscal year they are serving in a foreign country. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 22- To see if the town will vote to accept Clause 57 of MGL Chapter 59 Section 5 which will allow seniors who receive circuit breaker tax credits on their Massachusetts state income taxes to obtain a reduction of their real estate taxes up to the amount of their credits. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 23- To see if the town will vote to amend the Zoning By-Laws by changing Section 3.1 Number and Types of Districts. and Section 4.8 A. PERMITTED PRINCIPAL USES and adding paragraph 3.5 Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation Overlay District, and adding Section 11: Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations

SECTION 3: ZONING DISTRICTS

3.1 Number and Type of Districts

For the purpose of this By-Law, the Town of Richmond is divided into the following districts:

RA-A Residential-Agricultural District A

RA-C Residential-Agricultural District C

SR Shore-Residence Districts

COMM Commercial Districts

FWL Flood-Prone Areas and Wetlands

WTOD Wireless Telecommunications Overlay District

LSPOD Large-scale ground-mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation Overlay District

3.5 Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation Overlay District

3.5.1 Purpose

The Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation Overlay District (LSPOD) is intended to protect the scenic, historic, natural and other resources of the Town of Richmond, while allowing Solar Photovoltaic Installations to be developed.

3.5.2 Description

The location and boundaries of the Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation Overlay District (LSPOD) are hereby established to include only the area of the property listed below:

<u>Location/Address</u>	<u>Assessors' Map & Parcel #</u>
State Road	M 408 L 44
Cone Hill Road	M 411 L 12

The location and boundaries of the Overlay Districts are also shown on a Map entitled Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation Overlay District Map, dated (TBD), on file at the Town Clerk's office.

3.5.3 Relation to Other Districts

The LSPOD is an overlay district mapped over other districts. It modifies and, where there is inconsistency, supersedes the regulations of such other districts. Except as so modified or superseded, the regulations of the underlying districts remain in effect. Reference Section 4.8 Table of Use Regulations.

3.5.4 Applicability

Any use of lands within the LSPOD for purposes of placement, construction, modification or removal of Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation shall be subject to this By-Law. Such uses must be in conformance with this section and Section 11 detailing provisions for Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations

DISTRICTS

Section 4.8 A. PERMITTED PRINCIPAL USES RA-A

Continued:	RA-C	SR	COMM_
15. Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar and any equipment, accessory structure, fencing, access roadways and/or landscaping, and any accessory screening or camouflage as regulated under Section 11 of this By-Law:	YES*	NO	NO Photovoltaic Installations

a)* Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation, YES only in LSPOD Overlay District

Section 11: Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations

11.1 Purpose

The purpose of this bylaw is to promote the creation of new large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations by providing standards for the placement, design, construction, operation, monitoring, modification and removal of such installations that address public safety, minimize impacts on scenic, natural and historic resources and to provide adequate financial assurance for the eventual decommissioning of such installations.

The provisions set forth in this section shall apply to the construction, operation, and/or repair and removal of large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations.

11.2 Applicability

This section applies to large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations proposed to be constructed after the effective date of this section. This section also pertains to physical modifications that materially alter the type, configuration, or size of these installations or related equipment.

11.3 Definitions

As-of-Right Siting: As-of-Right Siting shall mean that development may proceed without the need for a special permit, variance, amendment, waiver, or other discretionary approval. As-of-right development shall be subject to a public hearing and site plan review to determine conformance with local zoning ordinances or bylaws. Projects cannot be prohibited, but can be reasonably regulated by the inspector of buildings or other boards designated by local ordinance or bylaw.

Building Inspector: The inspector of buildings, building commissioner, or local building inspector.

Building Permit: A construction permit issued by an authorized building inspector; the building permit evidences that the project is consistent with the state and federal building codes as well as zoning bylaws, including those governing large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations.

Designated Locations: The locations designated by the Planning Board, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A, section 5, where large-scale ground - mounted solar photovoltaic installations may be sited as-of right. Said locations are designated in Section 4.3.5 of this bylaw and shown on a Zoning Map of the Town of Richmond, pursuant to Massachusetts

General Laws Chapter 40A Section 4. This map is hereby made a part of this Zoning Bylaw and is on file in the Office of the Richmond Town Clerk.

Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation: A solar photovoltaic system that is structurally mounted on the ground and is not roof-mounted, and has a minimum nameplate capacity of 250 kW DC.

On-Site Solar Photovoltaic Installation: A solar photovoltaic installation that is constructed at a location where other uses of the underlying property occur.

Rated Nameplate Capacity: The maximum rated output of electric power production of the Photovoltaic system in Direct Current (DC).

Site Plan Review: review by the Planning Board to determine conformance with local zoning ordinances or bylaws.

Site Plan Review Authority: For purposes of this bylaw, Site Plan Review Authority is the Planning Board.

Solar Photovoltaic Array: an arrangement of solar photovoltaic panels.

Zoning Enforcement Authority: The Zoning Enforcement Officer is charged with enforcing the zoning bylaws.

11.4 General Requirements for all Large Scale Solar Power Generation Installations

The following requirements are common to all solar photovoltaic installations to be sited in designated locations.

11.4.1 Compliance with Laws, Ordinances and Regulations

The construction and operation of all large- scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall be consistent with all applicable local, state and federal requirements, including but not limited to all applicable safety, construction, electrical, and communications requirements. All buildings and fixtures forming part of a solar photovoltaic installation shall be constructed in accordance with the State Building Code.

11.4.2 Building Permit and Building Inspection

No large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation shall be constructed, installed or modified as provided in this section without first obtaining a building permit.

11.4.3 Fees

The application for a building permit for a large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation must be accompanied by the applicable building permit fee in force at the time of the application.

11.5 Site Plan Review

Large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations with 250 kW or larger of rated nameplate capacity shall undergo site plan review by the Planning Board prior to construction, installation or modification as provided in this section.

11.5.1 Procedures

An application for a building permit for construction of a large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation shall be accompanied by a Site Plan approved by the Planning Board. Applicants for Site Plan approval shall submit six (6) copies of the Site Plan to the Planning Board for review. The Planning Board shall, as soon as feasible, but within ten (10) days thereafter, distribute copies of the Site Plan to the Board of Health, Road Superintendent, Board of Selectmen, Building Inspector, Zoning Enforcement Officer, and the Conservation Commission for their advisory review and comments. The Planning Board shall review and act upon the Site Plan with all deliberate speed, with such conditions as may be deemed appropriate, within thirty (30) days of its receipt, and notify the applicant of approval at the earliest date possible. The decision of the Planning Board shall be made by a majority of those present and shall be in writing. For uses covered under this section, no building permit shall be issued by the Building Inspector without the written approval of the Site Plan by the Planning Board, or unless 30 days lapse from the date of the submittal of the Site Plan without action by the Planning Board.

11.5.2 Required Hearing and Notice

Site plan approval may be issued only following a public hearing held within sixty-five (65) days after filing of an application with the Planning Board. Notice of public hearing shall be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the town once in each of two successive weeks, the first publication to be not less than fourteen (14) days before the day of the hearing and by posting such notice in a conspicuous place in the Town Hall for a period of not less than fourteen (14) days before the day of such hearing, and by mailing it to Parties in Interest which include the Planning Board, and the petitioner, abutters, owners of land directly opposite on any public or private street or way, and owners of land within three hundred feet of the property lines, all as they appear on the most recent applicable tax list.

11.5.3 General

All plans and maps shall be prepared, stamped and signed by a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in Massachusetts.

11.5.4 Required Documents

Pursuant to the site plan review process, the project proponent shall provide the following documents:

- (a) A site plan showing:
 - i. Property lines and physical features, including roads, for the project site;
 - ii. Proposed changes to the landscape of the site, grading, vegetation clearing and planting, exterior lighting, screening vegetation or structures;
 - iii. Blueprints or drawings of the solar photovoltaic installation signed by a Professional

Engineer licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts showing the proposed layout of the system and any potential shading from nearby structures

- iv.** One or three line electrical diagram detailing the solar photovoltaic installation, associated components, and electrical interconnection methods, with all National Electrical Code compliant disconnects and overcurrent devices;
 - v.** Documentation of the major system components to be used, including the PV panels, mounting system, and inverter;
 - vi.** Name, address, and contact information for proposed system installer;
 - vii.** Name, address, phone number and signature of the project proponent, as well as all co-proponents or property owners, if any;
 - viii.** The name, contact information and signature of any agents representing the project proponent; and
- (b)** Documentation of actual or prospective access and control of the project site (see also Section 3.5);
 - (c)** An operation and maintenance plan (see also Section 3.6);
 - (d)** Zoning district designation for the parcel(s) of land comprising the project site (submission of a copy of a zoning map with the parcel(s) identified is suitable for this purpose);
 - (e)** Proof of liability insurance; and
 - (f)** Description of financial surety that satisfies Section 3.12.3.

The Planning Board may waive documentary requirements as it deems appropriate.

11.6 Site Control

The project proponent shall submit documentation of actual or prospective access and control of the project site sufficient to allow for construction and operation of the proposed solar photovoltaic installation.

11.7 Operation & Maintenance Plan

The project proponent shall submit a plan for the operation and maintenance of the large- scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation, which shall include measures for maintaining safe access to the installation, storm water controls, as well as general procedures for operational maintenance of the installation.

11.8 Utility Notification

No large-scale ground –mounted solar photovoltaic installation shall be constructed until evidence has been given to the Planning Board that the utility company that operates the electrical grid where the installation is to be located has been informed of the solar photovoltaic installation owner or operator’s intent to install an interconnected customer-owned generator. Off-grid systems shall be exempt from this requirement.

11.9 Dimension and Density Requirements

11.9.1 Setbacks

For large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations, front, side and rear setbacks shall be as follows:

- (a)** Front yard: The front yard depth shall be at least 50 feet.
- (b)** Side yard. Each side yard shall have a depth at least 50 feet.

(c) Rear yard. The rear yard depth shall be at least 50 feet.

11.9.2 Appurtenant Structures

All appurtenant structures to large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall be subject to reasonable regulations concerning the bulk and height of structures, lot area, setbacks, open space, parking and building coverage requirements. All such appurtenant structures, including but not limited to, equipment shelters, storage facilities, transformers, and substations, shall be architecturally compatible with each other. Whenever reasonable, structures should be shaded from view by vegetation and/or joined or clustered to avoid adverse visual impacts.

11.10 Design Standards

11.10.1 Lighting

Lighting of large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall be consistent with local, state and federal law. Lighting of other parts of the installation, such as appurtenant structures, shall be limited to that required for safety and operational purposes, and shall be reasonably shielded from abutting properties. Where feasible, lighting of the solar photovoltaic installation shall be directed downward and shall incorporate full cut-off fixtures to reduce light pollution.

11.10.2 Signage

Signs on large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall comply with Section 6.2 of this bylaw. A sign consistent with Section 6.2 shall be required to identify the owner and provide a 24-hour emergency contact phone number.

Large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations shall not be used for displaying any advertising except for reasonable identification of the manufacturer or operator of the solar photovoltaic installation.

11.10.3 Utility Connections

Reasonable efforts, as determined by the Planning Board, shall be made to place all utility connections from the large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation underground, depending on appropriate soil conditions, shape, and topography of the site and any requirements of the utility provider. Electrical transformers for utility interconnections may be above ground if required by the utility provider.

11.11 Safety and Environmental Standards

11.11.1 Emergency Services

The large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation owner or operator shall provide a copy of the project summary, electrical schematic, and site plan to the Richmond Fire Chief. Upon request the owner or operator shall cooperate with local emergency services in developing an emergency response plan. All means of shutting down the solar photovoltaic installation shall be clearly marked. The owner or operator shall identify a responsible person for public inquiries throughout the life of the installation.

11.11.2 Land Clearing, Soil Erosion and Habitat Impacts

Clearing of natural vegetation shall be limited to what is necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance of the large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation or otherwise prescribed by applicable laws, regulations, and bylaws.

11.12.2 Monitoring and Maintenance

11.12.1 Solar Photovoltaic Installation Conditions

The large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation owner or operator shall maintain the facility in good condition. Maintenance shall include, but not be limited to, painting, structural repairs, and integrity of security measures. Site access shall be maintained to a level acceptable to the Richmond Fire Chief and Emergency Medical Services. The owner or operator shall be responsible for the cost of maintaining the solar photovoltaic installation and any access road(s), unless accepted as a public way.

11.12.2 Modifications

All material modifications to a large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation made after issuance of the required building permit shall require approval by the Planning Board.

11.13 Abandonment or Decommissioning

11.13.1 Removal Requirements

Any large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation which has reached the end of its useful life or has been abandoned consistent with Section 11.13 of this bylaw shall be removed. The owner or operator shall physically remove the installation no more than 150 days after the date of discontinued operations. The owner or operator shall notify the Planning Board by certified mail of the proposed date of discontinued operations and plans for removal. Decommissioning shall consist of:

- (a) Physical removal of all large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations, structures, equipment, security barriers and transmission lines from the site.
- (b) Disposal of all solid and hazardous waste in accordance with local, state, and federal waste disposal regulations.
- (c) Stabilization or re-vegetation of the site as necessary to minimize erosion. The Planning board may allow the owner or operator to leave landscaping or designated below-grade foundations in order to minimize erosion and disruption to vegetation.

11.13.2 Abandonment

Absent notice of a proposed date of decommissioning or written notice of extenuating circumstances, the solar photovoltaic installation shall be considered abandoned when it fails to operate for more than one year without the written consent of the Planning Board. If the owner or operator of the large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installation fails to remove the installation in accordance with the requirements of this section within 150 days of abandonment or the proposed date of decommissioning, the town may enter the property and physically remove the installation.

11.14 Financial Surety

Proponents of large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic projects shall provide a form of surety, either through escrow account, bond or otherwise, to cover the cost of removal in the event

the town must remove the installation and remediation of the landscape, in an amount and form determined to be reasonable by the Planning Board, but in no event to exceed more than 125 percent of the cost of removal and compliance with the additional requirements set forth herein, as determined by the project proponent. Such surety will not be required for municipally- or state-owned facilities. The project proponent shall submit a fully inclusive estimate of the costs associated with removal, prepared by a qualified engineer. The amount shall include a mechanism for calculating increased removal costs due to inflation.

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 Saturday, May 28, 2011, at 11:00 AM, to bring in votes for the following Town Officers:

- One Selectman for three years
- One member of the Board of Health for three years
- One member of the School Committee for three years
- One member of the Finance Committee for three years
- One member of the Planning Board for five years
- One Library Trustee for three years
- One Moderator for one year

And the polls may close at 7:00 PM.

And you will serve the warrant by posting up true and attested copies hereof, one at the Richmond Town Hall, one at the Richmond Post Office, one at the Bartlett's Orchard bulletin board and one at the Richmond Shores Civic Association bulletin board, seven days at least before the time of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 27th_day of April, 2011.

ROGER W. MANZOLINI, CHAIRMAN
MARGUERITE J. RAWSON
ALAN B. HANSON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

I have posted up true and attested copies hereof, one at the Richmond Town Hall, one at the Richmond Post Office, one at the Bartlett's Orchard bulletin board and one at the Richmond Shores Civic Association bulletin board.

Constable

Date



EXPLANATIONS

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 2012 budget, including the funding for the Sewer System, Ambulance, and a few misc. items, is \$5,065,911 which is \$394,920 (7.2%) less than the FY 2011 budget approved by last year's annual town meeting. Again, the Selectmen and the Finance Committee once again felt it was important to present a budget that was sensitive to the economic conditions but yet continued to provide residents with the services they expect from Town government. Highlights of this year's budget include a major reduction in the amount to be paid toward the school bond, a 1% increase in the Town's appropriation to the school budget, a 2.5% salary increases for Town Hall employees, slight increases in health insurance and pension assessment, an increase in the snow and ice portion of the Highway Department budget. However you will see that the majority of non-salary related line items have been level funded or reduced from their Fiscal Year 2011 levels. The Selectmen and Finance Committee strongly believe that the proposed spending plan for Fiscal Year 2012 will adequately fund the Town's operations while remaining sensitive to desire of the taxpayers to minimize tax increases.

The proposed Fiscal Year 2012 Sewer Budget of \$216,361 is slightly greater than one approved for FY2011. We continue to gain a better understanding of the costs associated with operating the system and feel that this amount is reflective of the cost to operate the system. It is important to stress that the largest cost within this budget is the debt payment associated with the system's design and construction. It is also important to remember that 100% of the cost of System (debt and operation/maintenance) is born by the users of the system.

This year there are few new spending requests. One request is for a pro-active tree maintenance program. Due to years of neglect numerous dead and diseased trees line many roadways in town creating potential hazards. If approved, the requested \$10,000 would be the beginning of a multi-year removal of dead and diseased trees. This program would be in addition to the other "re-active" work performed by the tree warden.

In addition again this year, there is a funding request of \$10,000 for the Town Hall Stabilization Account. While no major work is planned maintaining a healthy balance in this account is sound planning for when large capital needs arise.

The article for the school bond payment has decreased due to the recent refinancing of the outstanding school debt. This refinancing will save the town roughly \$485,000 over the next ten years. As part of the refinancing the town received a lump sum payment for the remainder of the state funding associated with the 1998 improvements. The combination of this lump sum plus the issuing of \$1.2 million in new bond allowed the Town to retire the remainder of the project's outstanding debt. Therefore, this year's school bond payment represents the first payment in a new ten year repayment schedule for the \$1.2 million borrowed to retire the older bonds.

With the Town's tax billing issues resolved coupled with an understanding of the amount of state aid the town will receive it is possible to once again estimate the revenues that will be raised in FY2012. The breakdown is as follows:

	Source of Revenue	Percentage of total revenue
Real and Personal Property Taxes (Tax Levy)	\$3,967,320	78.31%
Non Property Tax (State Aid, Local Receipts, etc.)	\$1,098,591	21.69%
Total	\$5,065,911	100%

Again this year, Town Meeting consideration on the warrant articles will be done using the "consent calendar" approach. Therefore, the Moderator will ask the town meeting attendees for permission to consider Articles 1-4 together, which will allow discussion of any of the articles under a single motion and will ask for a vote on all five articles on the same motion. In addition, in order to save time at the town meeting, the Moderator will not read all of the 87 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 1-4

ARTICLE 1- REPAIR HIGHWAYS AND CARE FOR CEMETERIES

This is a standard article from year to year authorizing the Selectmen to supervise the highways and cemeteries.

ARTICLE 2- CEMETERY TRANSFER: \$500

This is a standard article that moves funds from an interest account to an expense account to pay cemetery expenses. It is combined with the amount appropriated in Line Item 68, representing a total of \$1,000 in cemetery expenses, and there is an additional \$5,355 for the superintendent's salary. Again, this year is an article (Article 18), which asks for an appropriation for the continued removal of dangerous trees and headstone repair within Town cemeteries. There is no change in the transfer from last year's transfer.

ARTICLE 3- REVOLVING FUNDS

This article establishes revolving funds that receive certain revenues and it authorizes expenditure of these funds without further appropriation. This year we have reduced the number of Revolving Funds which means that the revenues for activities such as dog licensing, and Title V inspections will not be deposited into the Town's General Fund.

ARTICLE 4- TRANSPORTATION BOND

This is a standard article allowing the Town to spend a state grant for road construction and repair. The amount is expected to be \$170,726 in FY 2012.

ARTICLE 5- 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.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

1. Assessors Salaries: \$3,600 - These are the annual salaries of the Assessors with \$1200 per Assessor. No change from FY 2011.
2. Assessors Expenses: \$22,534- This account pays for the Assessors' office supplies, map updating, contracted services and other expenses. No change from FY 2011.
3. Assessor Clerk: \$23,600- This is the annual salary of the part time Assessor Clerk, who works 20 hours per week and handles the day-to-day work in the office and several other tasks. 2.5% increase from FY2011.
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 FY2011.
5. Moderator Salary: \$0- The Moderator has decided to no longer accept the pay associated with this position. This represents a 100% reduction from FY2011.
6. Selectmen Salaries: \$5,250- These are the annual salaries of the Selectmen, with \$1,750 per Selectmen. No change from FY2011.
7. Selectmen Expenses: \$2,000- This account pays for meetings, mileage, dues and other expenses of the Selectmen. No increase from FY2011.
8. Town Clerk Salary: \$9,002- This is the base annual salary of the Town Clerk, who is the town's official record keeper and license issuer. No increase from FY2011.
9. Town Clerk Expenses \$2,422- This pays for mileage, dues and other Town Clerk expenses. No change form FY2011.
10. Treasurer Salary: \$23,971- This is the base annual salary of the Treasurer, who manages the entire town's financial transactions, provides benefits management for all employees, including payroll, and oversees properties placed in Tax Title. This is a 36.7% (\$6,441) increase from FY2011 due to an increase in the official hours of the Treasurer from 12 to 16 per week and the 2.5% increased provide to all Town employees.
11. Certification Incentive: \$1,000- The 2000 town meeting authorized incentive pay for the Town Clerk, Treasurer and Tax Collector for obtaining and maintaining certification from their respective statewide professional associations. No change from FY2011.
12. Treasurer's Expenses: \$2,200- This account pays for meetings, conferences, mileage and other expenses of the Treasurer. No change from FY2011.

13. Town Accountant Salary: \$14,607- 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 must file regular reports with the Department of Revenue. Given that the new accountant has less than 6 months of service with the town this salary had been level funded from FY2011.

14. Town Accountant Expenses: \$950- This account pays for training, meetings, mileage, and other expenses of the Town Accountant. No change from FY2011.

15. Tax Collector Salary: \$13,612- This is the annual salary of the Tax Collector, who collects all real and personal property, motor vehicle excise taxes and sewer fees. This is a 2.5% increase from FY2011. His work collecting sewer betterments and user fees is compensated separately from the sewer enterprise fund and he also receives certain fees for collecting late taxes.

16. Tax Collector/Treasurer Assistant Salary: \$4,000- This is the base salary for the new position of Assistant to the Tax Collector/Treasurer, who will be assisting the tax collector with some of the basic functions of the collector's office including data base management, and the collection of taxes. No change from FY2011.

17. Tax Collector Expenses: \$7,590- This is for postage, stationery, training, mileage and other costs of the Tax Collector. No change from FY2011.

18. Town Secretary: \$24,600- This is the annual salary of the Town Secretary, who answers the phones at Town Hall, assists residents and serves as clerical staff to the Selectmen, Conservation Commission and Board of Health. This is a 17.9% (\$3,733) increase from FY2011 which represents the 2.5% increase provided to all employees as well as a base pay increase due to the assuming of additional duties for the Conservation Commission.

19. Town Counsel: \$4,000- This amount is used for Town Counsel and Special Town Counsel services, who advise and defend the town in legal matters. The annual retainer for our regular Town Counsel is \$3,000. The additional funds are for court appearances and special counsel. No change from FY2011.

20. Town Report: \$5,500- This is the cost of printing and mailing the annual town report. No change from FY2011.

21. Town Hall: \$20,000- This account pays for utilities, maintenance, cleaning and other goods and services at the Town Hall. The represents a 17% (\$2,900) increase from FY2011.

22. Elections and Board of Registrars: \$4,400- This account pays for the expenses involved in conducting elections, registering voters and maintaining the street list. No change from FY2011.

23. Town Administrator Salary: \$52,154- This is the annual base salary of the Town Administrator, who oversees the day-to-day operations at Town Hall and serves as the principal staff person for the Selectmen, and the sewer department, among many other duties. Town Administrator work related to the sewer project is compensated from the sewer enterprise budget. 2.5% increase from FY2011.

24. Town Administrator Expenses: \$1,500- This account pays for meetings, conferences, mileage and other expenses of the Town Administrator. This represents a 7.1% (\$100) increase from FY2011.

25. Conservation Commission: \$1,000- This account pays for meetings, conferences, mileage, supplies and other expenses of the Conservation Commission. This represents a 10.6% (\$118) reduction from FY2011.

26. Conservation Agent: 10,768- This is the annual base salary of the Conservation Agent. The Agent works 8 hours a week. This is a 2.5% increase from FY2011.

27. Historical Commission: \$361- This account pays for copying, membership, meetings and other expenses of the Historical Commission. No change from FY2011.

28. Planning Board: \$285- This account pays for annual subscriptions, meetings and other expenses of the Planning Board. No change from FY2011.

29. Recreation Committee: \$4,750- 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 expend program fees. No change from FY2011.

30. Council on Aging: \$2,375- This account pays for the various programs offered by the COA, including senior lunches, health programs and the van program. No change from FY2011. The council also has access to a revolving fund that allows it to receive small fees from van riders and expend funds to maintain the van.

31. Finance Committee: \$0- This account will be eliminated in future budgets. Any funds needed for Finance Committee activities shall be paid from the new Misc. Expenses Account described below.

32. Tax Collection Services: \$5,000- This account will pay for legal services and other activities associated with the collection of back taxes beyond the scope of the services provided by Town Council. No change from FY2011.

PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY

33. Police Chief Salary: \$2,562- This is the annual salary of the Police Chief, who issues firearms permits, arranges traffic details and cooperates with the State Police on traffic accidents and other matters. 2.5% increase from FY2011. The Police Chief and Constables also get paid hourly for performing traffic and election details for the town, for which they are paid from different town departments, depending on the type of duty, and from various contractors and utilities for traffic details, which are paid by the respective contractors or utilities.

34. Police Department Expenses: \$1,000- This account pays for the equipment and supplies used by the department, such as badges and firearm licensing supplies. This represents a reduction of 11.3% (\$128) from FY2011.

35. County Communications: \$9,691- This account pays Richmond's share for the Berkshire County Sheriff's Department to operate the 911 emergency dispatch system. This is an increase of 3% (\$281) from FY2011.
36. Constable Salaries: \$1,250- This is the salary account from which we pay the Constables. They are paid per hour if they are needed to direct traffic or for performing similar duties. No change from FY2011.
37. Constable Expenses: \$250- This account pays for Constable Mileage and other expenses. No change from FY2011.
38. Animal Control Officer Salary: \$2,562- This is the annual salary for the Animal Control Officer. 2.5% increase from FY2011.
39. Animal Control Officer Expenses: \$1,000- This pays for snares, gloves, rabies shots, boarding of animals and other expenses of the Animal Control Officer. No change from FY2011.
40. Fire Department: \$47,856- This account pays for fuel, truck and equipment maintenance, training, stipends and other expenses of the Fire Department. This is an increase of 2.6% (\$1,204) from FY2011.
41. Fire House Rent: \$8,000- This amount pays the rent to the Trustees of the Volunteer Fire Department for use of the building. No change from FY2011.
42. Tree Warden: \$6,935- These funds are used for contracting with a tree service to remove problem trees. No change from FY2011.
43. Emergency Management: \$6,625- This account pays for equipment and supplies for this department, which provides assistance and direction during natural disasters, storms and other emergencies. This represents a 112.1% (\$3,501) increase from FY2011 which represents the annual maintenance costs for the Reverse 911 notification system the Town plans to purchase in FY2012.
44. Dutch Elm: \$0- This line item is being eliminated. Funding for this activity is contained in the Highway Department's budget.
45. Insect Pest Control: \$0- This line item is being eliminated. Funding for this activity is contained within the Highway Department's budget.
46. Building Inspector Salary: \$5,762- This is the Building Inspector's annual salary. He has office hours the first, second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 10:30AM-12PM and is available on call. This is a 2.5% increase from FY2011.
47. Building Inspector Expenses: \$1,995- This account pays for training, expenses and mileage of the Building Inspector and Alternate. No change from FY2011.
48. Building Inspector (Assistant): \$240- This is the annual salary of the Assistant Building

Inspector, who fills in if the Building Inspector is not available or has a conflict of interest. No change from FY2011.

49. Zoning Enforcement Officer Salary: \$3,100- This is the annual salary of the ZEO, who ensures that building projects and proposed uses conform to the Zoning Bylaw. He holds office hours in conjunction with the Building Inspector on the first, second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 10:30AM -12PM and is available on call. 2.5% increase from FY2011.

50. Zoning Enforcement Officer Expenses: \$230- This account pays for meetings, mileage and other expenses of the ZEO. No change from FY2011.

51. 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 \$30 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 FY2011.

HEALTH

52. Board of Health Salaries: \$850- This is the annual salary account to be divided among five board members with the Chairman receiving \$250 and the other 4 members receiving \$150. No change from FY2011.

53. Board of Health Expenses: \$2,000- This account pays for meetings and other expenses of the Board of Health. No change from FY2011.

54. Board of Health Agent Salary: \$9,425- The Board of Health Agent witness's perc tests, tracks the solid waste collection program, and serves as the principal staff person for the Board of Health. 2.5% increase from FY2011.

55. Board of Health Agent Expenses: \$1,260- This pays for the mileage, supplies and other expenses of the agent. No change from FY2011.

56. Animal Inspector: \$192- This pays for the salary of the Animal Inspector, who performs the annual farm animal census and also is responsible for the quarantine of animals suspected of having rabies. No change from FY2011.

57. Rubbish Disposal: \$149,000- 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 FY2011.

58. Community Health: \$19,475- This account funds the newly established contract between the Community Health Association and the Town for Public Health Nurse Services. No change from FY2011.

59. Nuisance Abatement: \$2,000- This account provides funds to address public health matters that are an immediate threat to public health and safety.

HIGHWAYS

60. Machinery Maintenance: \$52,500- This account pays for the upkeep and repair of equipment and trucks. This represents a 5% (\$2,500) increase from FY2011.

61. Road Construction: \$59,000- This account, combined with state transportation bond funds, pays for road construction and re-construction. This represents a 4.6% (\$2,450) increase from FY2011.

62. Road Maintenance: \$96,191- This account pays for routine road maintenance, including the cost of DPW salaries during non-winter months. This is a 5.5% (\$5,048) increase from FY2011.

63. Town Garage: \$14,400- This account pays for fuel, utilities and other expenses at the Town Garage. This represents a 2.8% (\$390) increase from FY2011.

64. Winter Roads: \$187,800- This account pays for the plowing and sanding of the roads, including the costs of salt and sand, diesel fuel and the salaries of the DPW crew during the winter months. This is a 37.7% (\$51,380) increase from FY2011.

65. Gravel Roads: \$38,000- This account pays for the maintenance of the gravel roads. No change from FY2011.

66. Vacation and Sick Pay: \$12,592- This account is used to pay the road crew when they are sick or on vacation. This is a 4.8% (\$592) increase from FY2011.

67. Private Roads: \$3,500- These funds are used to help Richmond Shores and the Whitewood Association to maintain their private roads, pursuant to Chapter X of the Town Bylaws. This is a 16.7% (\$500) increase from FY2011.

68. Beaver Control-\$3,000- 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. No change from FY2011.

UNCLASSIFIED

69. Berkshire County Retirement: \$101,502- This account is Richmond's share paid to the county retirement system that covers the town's municipal employees. Teachers are covered under a separate retirement system administered by the state. This is a 23.3% (\$19,212) increase from FY2011.

70. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission: \$1,020- This is the county-wide commission that reviews projects and assists cities and towns on planning and zoning matters. No change from FY2011.

71. Cemetery Superintendent Salary: \$5,355- This is the annual salary of the Cemetery Superintendent who maintains the town's cemeteries. 1% increase from FY2010.

72. Cemetery Expenses: \$1,500- This account pays for the equipment and supplies in maintaining the cemeteries, along with the amount appropriated from Perpetual Care Fund Interest in Article 3. This represents a 50% (\$500) increase from FY2011.
73. Group Insurance: \$105,450- This account pays for the town's share of the health insurance, dental insurance, life insurance for municipal employees. These items for school personnel are included in the school budget. This represents an 11% (\$10,450) increase from FY2011.
74. Insurance and Bonding: \$66,000- This account pays for the Town's insurance policies, including motor vehicle, property, public liability, workers' compensation and officers' bonds. The Town collective premium for Worker's Compensation and Property & Casualty will not increase for FY2011 with an additional 5% bonus for paying the full premium in the first month of the new fiscal year, which the Town traditionally does. No change from FY2011.
75. Library: \$48,718- This account pays the salaries and operating costs of the Library. This represents a \$1.8% (\$860) increase from FY2011.
76. Library Rent: \$11,100- This is for the annual rent for the library building. No change from FY2011.
77. Memorial Day: \$100- This account pays for flowers, markers and flags for Memorial Day. This represents a 28.6% (\$40) decrease from FY2011.
77. Stationery and Office Supply: \$9,200- This account pays for paper, pens, pencils, postage and similar expenses at Town Hall. This represents a 0.9% (\$80) increase from FY2011.
78. Unemployment Reserve: \$1,000- This amount will help to cover the town's liability if a municipal employee files an unemployment claim. No change from FY2011.
79. Banking Services: \$450- This account pays for banking fees and charges. No change from FY2011.
80. Computer Payroll Services: \$2,500- This account pays the annual support for the payroll software purchased by the town in FY2011. This represents a 44.4% (\$2,000) decrease from FY2011.
81. Medicare: \$33,500- This account pays the town's share of Medicare employee withholding. No Change from FY2011.
82. Veterans' Agent Salary: \$1,035- This is annual salary for the Town's Veterans' Agent. 2.5% increase from FY2011.
83. Veterans' Aid: \$5,000- 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. This represents a \$5,000 (50%) decrease from FY2011.
84. Stray Animals: \$100- This account will help pay any costs associated with retrieving stray animals, usually farm animals. No change from FY2011.

85. Town Building Maintenance: \$12,400- This account helps to pay for routine maintenance for all town buildings. No change from FY2011.

86. Town Beach: \$9,000- This account pays for the lifeguards and equipment costs involved in running the Town Beach. No change from FY2011.

87. Legal Advertising: \$7,500- This account pays for the many legal ads that the town runs each year, ranging from invitations for bids to notices of public hearings. This represents an 87.5% (\$3,500) increase from FY2011.

88. Group Purchasing: \$600- This pays for the town's membership in the regional group purchasing program. No change from FY2011.

89. Training: \$700- This pays for training for town officers and employees who do not already have an expense account for such purposes or where the expense account is not sufficient to pay for additional training. No change from FY2010.

90. Office Equipment: \$12,000- This pays for regular computer replacement, software purchases, service contracts, and other office equipment related expenses. This represents a 71% (\$5,000) increase from FY2011.

91. Richmond Pond Weeds: \$10,000- This pays the Town's portion for the annual herbicide treatment for Richmond Pond. The City of Pittsfield and the Richmond Pond Association also pay a portion of the total cost of the annual treatments. No change from FY2011.

92. Misc. Expenses: \$700: This pays for misc expenses that can not be justified by any other funding source. No change from FY2011.

Article 6-Tree Removal

These funds will be used to fund what will be a multi-year proactive dead and diseased tree removal program within the town roadway right of ways.

Article 7-Reserve Fund: \$15,000

The Finance Committee recommends \$15,000 for this account, which can cover unexpected expenses in any other existing account. No change for FY2011.

Article 8- School Budget: \$2,846,878

This represents a 1% increase over the Town's Fiscal Year 2011 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 2011 budget and the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2012. Each account group has several sub-accounts which are not shown for space reasons.

	FY 2011	FY 2012
School Committee	\$1,500	\$1,500
Union Expenses	\$3908	\$4,623

Superintendent Salary & Expenses	\$44,448	\$42,967
SPED Director	\$21,318	\$20,613
Special Education	\$396,270	\$435,128
Principal Salary & Expenses	\$97,579	\$103,003
Supplies	\$44,000	\$44,000
Teaching	\$1,210,064	\$1,293,606
Professional Development	\$10,300	\$11,500
Technology	\$4,350	\$4,350
Transportation	\$185,000	\$189,800
Tuition	\$621,500	\$512,102
Operations & Maintenance	\$232,745	\$251,395
Employee Benefits and Insurance	\$377,108	\$367,647
Vocational Tuition	\$12,000	\$15,000
Total	\$3,262,092	\$3,297,264
Amount raised and appropriated by the town	\$2,818,691	\$2,846,878
School choice, grants and school revenue	\$ 443,401	\$ 450,386

ARTICLE 9- SPECIAL EDUCATION: \$45,000

These are the funds required for special placements of Richmond special education students. No change for FY2011.

ARTICLE 10- CONSERVATION LAND TRUST FUND: \$9,500

This appropriation goes into a fund that can purchase land for conservation purposes. The fund currently contains approximately \$225,000. No change from FY2011.

ARTICLE 11- STABILIZATION FUND: \$100,000

The stabilization fund is the Town's "savings account." This request is an \$85,000 decrease from what was approved for FY2011. However, \$85,000 is being requested from Free Cash to be voted at the Special Town Meeting prior to the Annual Town Meeting which will bring the total amount for FY2012 to same amount appropriated for FY2011. The Selectmen and Finance Committee would like to continue building this account so it can be used as funding mechanism for the scheduled replacement of highway and fire vehicles. There is approximately \$334,000 in the fund at this time. This account can also be used to address any unforeseen emergencies that the Town may experience during the year.

ARTICLE 12- TOWN HALL REPAIR STABILIZATION FUND: \$10,000

This FY2012 request will continue to build the fund for future capital improvements to Town Hall.

ARTICLE 13- FOOD AND FUEL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: \$4,000

This is a fund to help low income Richmond residents in times of emergency. We were able last winter to supplement the amount given to low income residents who receive federal fuel assistance funds through Berkshire County Community Action. No change in the requested amount.

ARTICLE 14- WATER QUALITY TESTING AND MITIGATION: \$5,000

While the majority of the work at the Cone Hill Road Landfill has been completed in FY11 this funding will pay for any additional testing or other items that may be required in FY12. It is anticipated that this is the last year funding will be needed for this item.

ARTICLE 15- SCHOOL NOTE PAYMENT: \$146,314

This article will pay the interest and principal payment for the school project bond. As stated in the explanation above, this amount represents the new debt payment after the refinancing of the old bond. This payment is the first on the new ten year note.

ARTICLE 16- SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND: \$216,361

This will fund all expenses for the operation of the sewer system to serve the sewer users. The salary amount is for the sewer operator, back-up operator, tax collector and for administration and the expenses include utilities, parts and maintenance and sewage disposal. There is an emergency reserve of \$10,000, can be used for unexpected expenses. The largest appropriation is for debt service to make payments on the state and federal loans that constructed the system. The revenues come from fees and betterments from the users (department receipts). Any funds not expended in FY 2012 will revert to the sewer enterprise and become the retained earnings in the next fiscal year.

ARTICLE 17- AMBULANCE ACCOUNT: \$45,000

The Ambulance Account is composed of the fees received from operating the Ambulance Service and pays for new vehicles, maintenance, training, stipends, and payments to County Ambulance when it sends an ambulance in lieu of or to supplement our service and for other Ambulance Service expenses. This is equal to the FY2011 amount.

ARTICLE 18- CEMETERY TREE REMOVAL AND STONE REPAIR: \$5,000

These funds will pay to remove dangerous trees and to repair headstones within the Town's cemeteries. This is the same as the FY2011 request.

ARTICLE 19- AMENDMENT TO DOG LICENSING BY-LAW

This would change the date for the institution of the Dog Licensing Late Fee from June 1st to April 1st to better coordinate with the Town's dog licensing year with run April 1st to March 31st.

ARTICLE 20-AMENDMENT OF SPECIAL EVENTS PERMIT BY-LAW

This would modify the town's special events permit process by including events sponsored by both for profit and non profit organizations and it would increase the threshold by which a permit would be required. If an event will require town services beyond those that are provided to citizens under normal circumstances or will take place on town property the selectmen may require a permit. A new Special Events application will be developed to guide the selectmen in its determination if a permit will be required.

ARTICLE 21-NATIONAL GUARD/MILITARY RESERVIST PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT (CLAUSE 56)

The adoption of the Clause 56 exemption would allow members of the Massachusetts National Guard or military reservists who are on active duty to obtain a reduction of all or part of their real and personal property taxes for any fiscal year they are serving in a foreign county.

ARTICLE 22-"CIRCUIT BREAKER" PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT (CLAUSE 57)

The adoption of the Clause 57 exemption would allow seniors who receive the "circuit breaker" tax credits on their Massachusetts state income taxes to obtain a reduction of their real estate taxes up to the amount of their credits.

ARTICLE 23-ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT-LARGE SCALE GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC OVERLAY DISTRICT

The adoption of this article would create a “by-right” zoning overlay district at the School and the former Cone Hill Landfill that would allow for the siting of ground mounted solar photovoltaic panels. Any proposals for the installation of solar photovoltaic panels subject to site plan review by the Planning Board after the Board hold a public hearing on the proposal. By adopting this “by-right” zoning provision the town would be meeting one of the five criteria required to be designated as a Green Community by the state. Town officials are working on proposals that would meet the other four thus allowing the town to seek Green Community status. Community that are designated as Green Community are provided access to funding for projects designed to increase the town energy efficiency.



TOWN DEPARTMENTS



*** in order according to Line Item Budget**



BOARD OF ASSESSORS

At this time we are beginning the triennial revaluation process of all properties in Richmond and this process will be finished by the end of the 2011 calendar year.

Concurrently there is to be a full town inventory of all property – referred to as the “Full Measure and List” and involves visiting each and every property within the town limits. Each property owner will be contacted and a mutually accepted date for a visit will be arranged.

This review is conducted every ten years and should not be confused with the triennial revaluation process which does not require an on-site visit.

We continue to have some difficulty with tax bills that are undeliverable. Reasons for failure include “unable to forward”, “forwarding time has expired”, “no such address”, and “no mail box at this address”. Our objective is obviously to collect taxes to keep the town running, but also to prevent interest penalties and possible warrant fees being applied to taxpayers’ bills because you have not received your bill in a timely fashion. It is the responsibility of the property owner to have mail forwarded if they are not residing at the address listed in the DOR system.

The Assessors’ office is the only repository for these addresses and notification of any permanent address change must be forwarded in writing to the Assessor’s Office and NOT to the Tax Collector. There is no guarantee that the correct address will be on record unless the Assessors office is notified in writing. Seasonal changes will not be made in the system.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Richmond Board of Assessors

Peter Cohen

Ray Supranowicz

Jeff Daigle





TOWN CLERK

On January 5, 2011 long-time Town Clerk and all around “Town Guy” Dave Morrison passed away suddenly. His death was certainly a great loss for his family but also for the Town. Dave was “Mr. Richmond” in many respects. His years of service to his town – as Selectman, Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Town Clerk - were invaluable and his presence is missed in Town Hall every day.

The Board of Selectmen appointed Town Secretary Kate Zahn to a dual role as Secretary and Town Clerk. Town Administrator Matthew Kerwood will return to his role as Assistant Clerk.

Since Dave’s death the Town Clerk’s office has undergone some changes such as the upgrading of the dog licensing and vital statics software. These changes and others will improve the efficiency of the Clerk’s functions and interaction with the public.

Dave’s spirit will always be with us at Town Hall and we are the better for it.

Vital statistics for 2010 are: 4 births, 8 deaths and 7 marriages. Current population according to the 2010 federal census data is 1490, which represents an 8% decline from the 2000 census. The continued trend of homes being purchased as second residences is a contributing factor to the decline.

2010 saw a special election to fill the U.S. Senate seat vacated by the death of Edward Kennedy, as well as a state and town election. As always, thanks to the election workers who put in as many as thirteen hours to ensure that all processes ran without delay.

The licensed canine population was 221 for 2010. However, the Clerk’s office has become much more aggressive in ensuring that residents comply with the law and license their dogs. To date, the number of dogs licensed in 2011 has reached 258. As a reminder: the license year is April 1st through March 31st.

The majority of the Annual Street Listing forms have been returned. It is important that these forms be returned so the state can meet its federal obligations. So, if any are lost, misplaced or otherwise unreturned, please contact this office at 698-3555 for a replacement.

In honor of Dave Morrison,

Matthew Kerwood
Town Administrator/Assistant Town Clerk





TREASURER'S REPORT

Due to a change in Treasurer's position mid-way through the fiscal year 2010 it was determined that no report would be submitted. However a full report will be provided in the next Annual Report.

The town would like to extend its gratitude to Treasurer Anna Schubert who retired in 2010 after 10 years of service to the town.



TAX COLLECTOR

Prior threats with regard to those who send in tax payments, either directly or through a third party, without adequate 'what's it for' information have been only moderately successful. Of particular fascination are checks received through a third party with the request the payment be credited simply to the account of 'our mutual customer'. I do not like the idea of yet another fee, but unless the volume of checks without adequate payment information decreases materially, the approach of a fee for chasing down the proper account will be pursued. Each bill mailing gives clear instructions that if the bill itself is not included with the payment, the bill year, type and number are needed to properly credit the account(s).

Real estate taxes: The total outstanding amount showed a considerable drop from that reported in the 2009 Annual Report. This resulted principally from (i) an unusually high FY 2009 outstanding amount in the 2009 Annual Report due to the late issue of the final FY 2009 tax bills and (ii) placing several properties in Tax Title status which, under law, transfers the collection obligation from the Collector to the Treasurer. The public notice indicating the potential for placing a property in tax title didn't hurt.

The negative figures for FY 1989 – 2004 and FY 2005 result, again principally, from properties being placed in tax title. There are a number of apparent tax overpayments that were found by the auditors some time back; these apparent overpayments suggest refunds need to be issued. Research into these potential refunds is underway and in a few cases it looks like the refunds are not required or were issued but not recorded in the Collector's records.

Personal property tax bills: The total outstanding amount showed a drop from that reported in the 2009 Annual Report due, generally, to an unusually high FY 2009 outstanding amount in the 2009 Annual Report due to the late issue of the final FY 2009 tax bills. As for real estate taxes, the potential refund situation is being explored.

Motor vehicle excise taxes: The reduction in outstanding taxes has been aided by a more aggressive position with regard to placing unpaid bills on demand and, if then still unpaid, on warrant. Taxpayers are waking up to the fact that not paying on time can be expensive.

Sewer betterment and operation and maintenance bills:

With respect to unpaid sewer betterment bills, the reduction from that reported in the 2009 Annual Report is due almost exclusively from properties being placed in tax title or the threat of such action.

Based on the action at the May 26, 2010 Special Town Meeting, unpaid FY 2011 operation and maintenance bills will be subject to the tax title process. Going forward, this is expected to have some effect on the outstanding amounts for prior year.

The outstanding receivables in the tables below show the outstanding amounts as of June 30, 2010 – the end of fiscal year 2010. These June 30, 2010 figures have not yet been audited and are subject to change based on audit. The Collector believes that final adjustments under audit will not be material.

Schedule of Outstanding Receivables as of June 30, 2010

Real Estate Taxes

Levy of 2010	\$75,112
Levy of 2009	22,549
Levy of 2008	7,002
Levy of 2007	5,292
Levy of 2006	1,946
Levy of 2005	(8,188)
Levies of 1989 - 2004	16,318
Total	\$87,396

Personal Property Taxes

Levy of 2010	\$692
Levy of 2009	525
Levy of 2008	447
Levy of 2007	877
Levy of 2006	605
Levy of 2005	(3,907)
Levies of 1989 - 2004	9,178
Total	\$8,418

Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes

Levy of 2010	\$30,272
Levy of 2009	3,303
Levy of 2008	4,705
Levy of 2007	2,229
Levy of 2006	1,806
Levy of 2005	2,274
Levy of 2004	4,491
Levies of 1989 - 2004	61,413
Total	\$106,002

Sewer Betterment

Levy of 2010	\$8,219
Levy of 2009	1,316
Levy of 2008	0
Levy of 2007	0
Total	\$9,535

Sewer Operations & Maintenance

Levy of 2010	\$5,527
Levy of 2009	2,378
Levy of 2008	2,373
Levy of 2007	1,356
Total	\$11,634

Respectfully submitted,
Frederick W. Schubert
Town Collector



TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

This past year has been one of continued advancement for the town but one that also saw great loss. With the deaths of Building Inspector Walter Potash and Town Clerk Dave Morrison the town lost two great public servants who gave their best every day. They will be missed, but as they would have wanted, we need to move forward which is what we have done. The hiring of our new building inspector, Paul Greene, has allowed us to advance the manner in which we handle the building permit process. In the same vain, we have introduced new tools to the Town Clerk functions that have improved the efficiencies of those duties.

This past year also saw the retirement of long term treasurer Nancy Schubert and the hiring of Amy Lane. With Amy's assistance we have been able to integrate the school and town onto one accounting system, improved the manner in which we track revenue and expenses, and modernized the way we address properties in Tax Title.

While you may never notice these changes, I can assure you that they have had a positive impact on the way I manage the day-to-day operations of the town. The ability to obtain data and information in real time greatly improves the efficiency and productivity of our operations, which in the end saves you - the taxpayer - money.

Another project we advanced this past year was the refinancing of the remaining debt on the 1999 school renovation project. Working with Unibank, the School Building Assistance Bureau and others, we are in position to save the Town roughly \$500,000 over the next ten years. With shrinking revenue from the state and ever-increasing costs for items such as health care, these saving will be welcome as we work to balance the town's need to fund its operations with your ability as taxpayers to pay the tax that pays for it all.

It continues to be an honor to serve you as your Town Administrator. I look forward to continuing to work with you on the challenges and opportunities that lay before us.

Matt Kerwood
Town Administrator





CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Let's start by focusing on the positive!

A total of 30 applications were approved by the Conservation Commission, with conditions to ensure protection of the environment. Approved projects ranged from relocating railroad tracks to a wide range of home improvement projects.

The commission worked with CSX to make possible a relocation of railroad tracks to accommodate higher trains, and to ensure that the railroad company's herbicide program was conducted with wetland protection in mind. Markings were repainted, in some cases relocated, to ensure that the herbicides would not affect wetland vegetation and the wildlife that inhabit our wetlands.

With an awareness that most storm water runoff – together with the pollutants it carries — eventually finds its way into our wetlands, the Town of Richmond's Department of Public Works, the Branch Farm Association and the Richmond Shores Association all worked with the commission to construct more effective storm water management systems while reducing the negative impacts to neighboring water bodies.

Richmond DPW also received approval for replacement of a culvert on Dublin Road and replacement of a temporary headwall surrounding a culvert at Lenox Road; a private property owner received permission to replace a bridge over Cone Brook, washed out in the summer of '09 floods.

While – no doubt a testimony to the economic times – the commission heard no proposals for new-home construction, residents were busy upgrading existing properties. Homes were raised to create new basements or replace foundations – or razed, to create all-new structures. Additions were constructed, new septic systems installed, and landscaping improved at waterfront properties; trees were cleared within a riverfront area to create pasture for horses.

The commission issued seven emergency certifications for activities ranging from replacement of failing grinder pumps at Branch Farm to removal of dead or damaged trees that presented a potential threat to humans.

Following two lengthy public hearings, approval was granted under the Berkshire Scenic Mountain Act for construction of a second floor, expansion of the footprint, and related activity at a residence on View Drive. A Scenic Mountain Act permit also was issued for a small, second-floor addition to a home, also on View Drive.

Throughout the year, the commission denied only one request: an application to amend an existing permit, with proposed changes so significant the commission asked that a new application be submitted.

The 30 approvals represented activities in which the commission worked with property owners and their agents to achieve their objectives, while ensuring protection of the environment.

Now to the not-so-positive aspect of the commission's role: the commission issued nine enforcement orders for projects undertaken without permits, or for non-compliance with the conditions of current permits.

For the benefit of our town and its residents, the commission's goal is to reduce the non-productive, expensive, time-consuming and negative activity associated with enforcement. Residents are encouraged to contact the commission early in the project-planning stages to discuss possible wetlands permitting issues and, if the site's elevation is 1,400 feet or higher, possible permitting requirements under the Berkshire Scenic Mountain Act.

To help streamline the permitting process, and to make it more user-friendly for property owners and their agents, the Town has instituted office hours on some Wednesdays, when the Building Inspector, Health Agent and Conservation Agent are available to review plans and discuss permitting requirements. Check your town calendar, or call Town Hall, for the dates. We'll be glad to review wetlands maps with you, walk your site, discuss permitting requirements – if any – and offer guidance throughout the process. (Don't rely on do-it-yourself evaluations! Depending on the season and recent weather conditions, a wet site may not be a jurisdictional wetland. And a dry site may be!)

Holly Stover,
Chairwoman





HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Local Historical Commissions are the official agents of municipal government. They serve as local preservation advocates and as an important resource for information about their community's cultural resources and preservation activities

2010 was a very busy year for the Richmond Historical Commission.

CEMETERIES. Top priority was the ongoing effort to repair broken/damaged stones in the cemeteries. Under the direction of TaMarra Conday, a certified stone restorer, three prominent stones were repaired and reset in the Center Cemetery. Because of the deteriorated condition of the markers for the Rev. David Perry, the titled Honorable Samuel Gates, and Col. David Rossiter, Revolutionary War hero, this was a major undertaking. As the location of the restoration was at the front of the cemetery, ongoing work was followed by passersby during the summer - inviting many comments. Several of the stones in the North Cemetery were also repaired.



Restoration of markers in our cemeteries will be an ongoing process for several years. The Commission would like to thank the town for supporting this important project.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY. Summer resident Edward (Ted) Andrews was instrumental in aiding the Commission's historic properties inventory project. Using the Internet, Ted advertised for interns educated in the disciplines of architecture and related subjects. Candidates Erin Howe, right, a recent graduate of Georgia Institute of Technology, and Sophia Mehner, left, a junior at SUNY Oneonta, were selected.

Invited to live in Richmond, the two who worked as volunteers were able to devote many hours of photography, deed research, genealogical research, architectural descriptions and historical narratives for twenty-seven Greek revival houses, the Richmond Congregational Church and the Richmond Town Hall. When completed, these official Inventory Forms will be sent to the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Surprisingly,



when digging deeper into some of the homes, it was found the architectural style had been changed and were older than thought. A fine project for each of the intern's résumés.

During this period, The Richmond Record was interested in publishing articles on older homes in Richmond, including a period photograph, with the intent of helping folks understand the importance of preserving history. The RHC was asked to participate in writing descriptions of some of these homes. We found the material written by the interns invaluable for the stories. These articles did seem to appeal to their readers.

DONATIONS. Roberta Cunningham, former Richmond resident and Commission member donated items pertaining to Richmond.

Also received from Miriam Kimball was a portion of Margaret Kingman's collection of photocopied material.

Thomas Gardner donated several historical documents and photographs from Dorothy Doyle's collections.

TOUR. The Richmond Historical Commission and the Richmond Historical Society sponsored a tour of Center

Cemetery in October. Even though the day was cold, we drew a large crowd. We have another tour planned for late summer 2011 for those who were unable to make the October tour.

INQUIRIES. I have answered letters and phone calls from families looking for information on Richmond or some of their family members who once lived here. These requests are ongoing and I'm pleased that I'm able to help.

For more information log on to <http://richmondma.org/> and click on Town History.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Morse, Chairperson





PLANNING BOARD

Site Plan Reviews – For the first time in the history of zoning regulation, no site plans for new residential home construction were requested from the Planning Board. Two were approved last year. New residential home construction has averaged between three and four per year for the last 15 years and continues to be a lower rate when compared with other communities.

Subdivision of Lots - The Planning Board endorsed two land plans that created one additional lot by subdividing an existing lot on Town roads. This rate of lot subdivision is less than last year and much less than the average rate for the past fifteen years.

Special Permits- No special permits were requested this year. This continues a trend of reduced development in the Town during the past 5 years.

Proposed Zoning By- Law Changes – The Planning Board has proposed a zoning by-law change to bring the Town of Richmond into compliance with the Massachusetts Green Communities Act. The change would permit Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations in specific locations defined by a new Overlay District. The Overlay District is located on Town property north of the Richmond School and at the old landfill site on Cone Hill Road. A new section in the Zoning By-Law is designed to promote the creation of new large-scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations by providing standards for the placement, design, construction, operation, monitoring, modification and removal of such installations that address public safety, minimize impacts on scenic, natural and historic resources and to provide adequate financial assurance for the eventual decommissioning of such installations. After a public hearing, the proposed change will be voted on at the annual Town meeting.

John Hanson, Chairman
Michael Kelly
Linda Morse
Paula Patterson
John Vittori





RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Richmond Recreation Committee (RRC) began the year with Members Jeff Konowitch (Chairman), Tricia Wyatt (Secretary), Holly Freadman, Ruth Hanavan (Treasurer & Scheduler) and Chris Begley. Jim Nejaime left the committee after several years of service to the Town of Richmond.

The RRC continued to support many individual sports and athletic teams during the past year. The community of Richmond, including the parents of the athletes and some teens, were very generous with their time. Many volunteered as coaches and assistants and all-around help for the different programs we supported and/or sponsored. They helped with: fall soccer; winter basketball; the indoor tennis program; spring baseball (T-ball, Coach's Pitch, Minor and Little League); soccer; softball teams, and the summer tennis program. Baseball, softball and soccer programs were run by the Great Barrington leagues with input from the RRC. All of these programs had good participation and many Richmond children were able to take advantage of multiple programs.

The Richmond Youth Basketball program had over 60 students playing and well over 15 parents and other volunteers who were coaches, scorekeepers and referees. The teams start as young as Kindergarten and go through 8th grade. The Kindergarten through 5th grade boys and girls played on development teams, while the 6th through 8th grade boys and girls played on teams that traveled throughout Berkshire County. Some of those students played basketball in Housatonic (boys) and Great Barrington (girls). The younger group of basketball players was larger than in the past few years and the increased participation is great for the program. We bought some additional equipment this year to aid the younger players and help develop them and keep the program strong.

As a result of their participation in these varied programs we have students playing at the Varsity and Junior Varsity level in many schools throughout the Berkshires, including Monument Mountain, Taconic, Lenox and Mt. Greylock to name a few. Those sports include, but are not limited to: Basketball, Soccer, Alpine Skiing, Baseball, Softball, Tennis, Swimming, Fall Cross Country and Spring Track as well as Golf. These students are not just playing but excelling in their respective sports and contributing to school spirit.

The Indoor Walking program, now in its fifth year, has been successful. This program takes place at the Richmond Consolidated School before students arrive, and gives those who might not be able to exercise due to bad weather or darkness a safe place to walk.

The "Reach the Beach" 5K road race was again a community event and was a resounding success. It was planned and organized by Becky Marzotto and her able team. Planning continues for this year's fifth annual race on Father's Day (Sunday, June 19, 2011). We love sponsoring this annual event as it includes a large turnout of runners and volunteers of all ages from our town and beyond.

We continued a new community event with our second annual Ping Pong Tournament on Sunday, March 20 at the Richmond Consolidated School gymnasium. This brought residents and others to our town for a great afternoon at the end of the long winter.

The RRC has also resurrected the summer Tennis program for both adults and children, utilizing the Town Tennis courts that have been vastly underused. With Holly Freadman running this, we hope to grow the tennis program for 2011. We were also able to help sponsor an indoor Tennis program called “10 and Under Tennis” which targets younger players with assistance from Superintendent of the School William Ballen, Holly Freadman and two high school students.

The RRC began a new program called the “After School Drop-In”. This program offers supervised gym and playground time using playground balls, sidewalk chalk, bean bags, jump ropes, basketball, soccer and other “field day” and recess-type activities to keep kids active and occupied after school. We purchased materials that include all of the above and are available for parents and children of all ages to use. The committee also became a member of the U.S. Play Coalition in order to promote the value of play throughout life. This includes the use of the studies and resources of this organization.

The RRC would like to thank everyone in town who helped by volunteering, coaching, supporting or participating in our events. We also thank the Selectmen, the other town officials, and Town Administrator Matt Kerwood for assisting us throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Konowitch
Chairman



2nd Annual Ping Pong Tournament,
May 2011



2010 Reach the Beach 5k
with Dad, June 2010



COUNCIL ON AGING

2010 was a busy year for the Richmond Council on Aging.

The Richmond Council on Aging was fortunate to partner with the Richmond Consolidated School in sponsoring a program to honor the Veterans of Richmond. A wonderful luncheon was served to a group of approximately 70 at the school. Students presented each Veteran with a personalized hand-made card, and a wonderful mural decorated the wall of the cafeteria. A patriotic song was sung by some of the students. A grand time was had by all and it is our wish that this will become an annual event in the Town of Richmond.

We were able to provide seven van trips and five luncheons as well as two picnics.

The Council on Aging was fortunate to recruit three new van drivers, Laura Persily, Mary Ann Hicks and Bill Hydon. Welcome and thank you!

Esther Cunningham turned 100 in 2010 and we were able to celebrate her special day. Happy Birthday Esther!

The van, as always, was put to good use. This year we were able to transport a resident for special treatments every day due to the willingness of our volunteer drivers. They are essential to the van program and we thank them for all their efforts.

The Richmond School chorus provided seasonal music at the December luncheon and we thank them and director, Joy Mullen.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Lahey, Chair



Council on Aging at Greylock Summit



FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee is pleased to report that the financial condition of the town remains strong.

During 2010, the Committee worked with the Town Administrator and the Selectmen to develop the Town's Fiscal Year 2011 operating budget which was approved at the May 2010 Annual Town Meeting. Recognizing that it would again be a challenging year as state aid and other revenue sources would be reduced due to the economic climate, department heads tightly controlled their budget requests, town employees not under contract were limited to a one percent increase, and the town contribution to the School budget limited to two percent. This lean approach once again allowed us to keep the total budget and the related increase in raised and appropriated property taxes to about one percent.

Looking forward, although reports indicate the economy is improving, costs, especially oil and health insurance, continue to escalate while the income of many residents remains stagnant. The Committee remains committed to ensuring the Town's fiscal condition remains strong, looking for ways to reduce costs while maintaining necessary services funded by tax rates that our residents can afford.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Gniadek, Chair
William Martin, Clerk
Eileen Martin
John Mason
Diane Pero



POLICE CHIEF

In accordance with the Massachusetts gun control act of 1998 I have issued 14 renewals and 6 new Fire Arms Identification Cards or Licenses to Carry Firearms to qualified applicants during the period of January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010.

I have been in touch with Boston with regard to installing and using the MIRCS system of issuing FID's & LTC'S. This new system will be in place as soon as I can attend the required certification classes.

We continue to assist the Massachusetts State Police in the control of traffic, investigations of motor vehicle accidents and other investigations of matters in town.

Thanks to all our constables for their support and cooperation in the handling of work details and emergency traffic control situations, thereby safekeeping the work crews, emergency response personnel and traveling public.

We continue to keep in touch with the Pittsfield Critical Incident Response Team, should we ever have such a situation occur.

As always, our thanks to the Massachusetts State Police for their continued quick response and the professional handling of the town's law enforcement requirements.

I will continue to hold office hours for residents at the Town Hall every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to answer questions, issue permits, or provide any other information they may require.

I look forward to continuing to be of service to the town as Chief of Police.

Respectfully submitted,

William H. Bullett,
Chief of Police
01/31/11





ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

The past year was an average one with wildlife and domestic animal calls being about equal.

On the domestic side, I had numerous calls on lost dogs and cats, dogs barking constantly as well as dogs and livestock running loose on the highway and rail road tracks. All calls were handled as promptly as possible and citations were issued as needed.

The wildlife calls involved bats, snakes, and possums inside residences to bears and coyotes endangering pets and livestock. The calls involving as well as Fish and Game and Richmond DPW.

Remember all dogs must be licensed, up to date on rabies vaccine, and always on a leash.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the police, fire, and highway departments as well as all the town officials that help make animal control successful.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Springstube
Animal Control Officer



ANIMAL INSPECTOR

This year had an increase in calls involving possible rabid animals. These were dispatched and sent to the state lab in Boston for testing. Anyone that had contact with these animals were advised to see their physician for further treatment.

I quarantined three domestic animals for biting human or other dogs and cats, all were found free of rabies.

All domestic livestock appeared healthy and free of disease. I had several calls involving livestock that lacked feed, shelter or proper care. After investigation all conditions were corrected and approved upon.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Springstube
Animal Inspector



VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

In 2010, the Richmond Fire Department responded to a total of 253 calls. This was down 31 calls from 2009. The majority of this decrease can be directly attributed to the high number of calls during the floods of 2009. 96 calls were fire related and 157 were related to medicals. Of the 96 fire related calls, we responded to 9 structure fires: 5 in Richmond, 1 in Hancock, 2 in West Stockbridge and 1 in Lenox. Of the 157 medical calls, 63 were to West Stockbridge and 6 were to Hancock. The balance (88) was in Richmond.

In 2010 the membership started out at 23 members. At the end of 2010 we had a membership of 21. Of the 21, 15 are firefighters and 6 are EMTs. We have a total of 14 EMTs, having 9 firefighters trained as both EMTs and firefighters on the department. Of the 15 firefighters, 7 live in Richmond, 8 live out of town.

I am pleased to say our members have dedicated many hours to training including Rapid Intervention Team (RIT), ICS training, Vehicle Extrication, Hazardous Material training, Wildland Fire training, Pumps and Hydraulics class, First responder training along with EMT training and recertification, including CPR and AED training. We attended a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Drill in Lee, and in October we went to Lenox at the request of the Lenox Fire Chief (Daniel Clifford) to join them in a tanker shuttle drill, which also included Hancock. Two months later we were in Lenox at the Cranwell fire applying the skills and techniques we had practiced and learned.

In September we discovered that our Brush Truck had a blown transmission and problems with the engine. We had received cost estimates that we felt were too high for the truck considering its age, so in October members of the department removed the engine and transmission and replaced them with an engine and transmission from a surplus truck we had. I send a special thanks to the members that volunteered their time and skills to save the department a lot of money.

We again applied for two grants. The first was a grant to replace our tanker. At this time I can report we have been awarded a grant of \$285,000. The second was a grant to replace the radios the Federal Government has required us to up-grade. We have not as of yet heard whether we have been awarded or been turned down for this grant. Through the Western Massachusetts Fire Chiefs Association I was able to receive 2 MDT computers valued at approximately \$12,000. One will go into Car-1 and one will go in Engine 1. These computers are tied into a database in Western Mass and will make it easier to find homes and businesses in our town and in the towns that we assist with mutual-aid. We will have the capability of inputting pertinent information for preplanning of homes and businesses with special hazards including the school in this town. It will also give us the same type of information when we provide mutual-aid to other towns that are in the database.

Again, I would like to thank the members of Richmond Fire and Rescue Department for their continuous dedication to the residents of this wonderful town. I would also like to thank Assistant Fire Chief Steve Traver of Hancock's Station 2, for responding to 95 Automatic-aid calls to Richmond. Without his assistance there were calls which we would not have been able to complete properly due to the lack of manpower. I would also like to extend a special thank you to Assistant Chief Maurice Garofoli who made the hard decision to leave the department in August. For so many years, he gave his heart and soul to serve the citizens of Richmond. Thank you, Maurice.

Paul M. Sintoni
Fire Chief





AMBULANCE SERVICE

We're just a little quieter here in our beautiful little town of Richmond, EMS wise at least. All figures are down from last years jump so either we are all behaving in a more safety conscious way or we are healthier. Which ever it is kudos to all of us for that. This year's breakdown for EMS service with a total of 154 calls made for 911 EMS assistance,

Richmond ~ 85

West Stockbridge ~ 63 (3 on the Mass Pike)

Hancock ~ 6

We required Advanced Life Support Assistance on 70 total calls which works out to about 45%. These are calls that require more that basic EMT's can do for that patient. County Ambulance out of Pittsfield responded for 13 calls where they were the primary transporter, vs. the occasion when our town ambulance is used the transport and the paramedic gets on our rig. Central Berkshire Ambulance performed that duty one time during the past year. They are no longer an entity in the county however, we have a new ALS company, Action Ambulance that you may be seeing within our town limits. We were not able to get ALS assistance five times during the past year. This can happen for various reasons but you can appreciate the efforts our town squad members make to get you to the hospital in a timely fashion on the rare occasion that happens.

Our total mileage for the past year was 3235, down about 440 miles from the previous report.

Sadly, we had one response this year we wished never to have happen. Dave Morrison, our retired chief and good friend has been and will continue to be so missed.

Along with the fire dept we all acquired dress uniforms this year and will be wow-ing you at the Memorial Day parade. Hope you're watching as we march proudly.

We are sending one squad member off to military service as of this May. Michael Malinowski will remain on our roster. Stay safe Michael. And come back to our town.

Your Richmond Ambulance members:

Paul Sintoni, Chief

Katherine DeSantis, Captain

Joan Chapman-Bartlett

Dan Sintoni

Mike Malinowski

Jay Phelps

Fran Malnati

Joe Harrington

Amber Back

Vinnie Garifoli

Jeremy Jones

Cathy Malinowski

Chris Deinlein

Brian Schultz

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine DeSantis,

Squad Reporter



TREE WARDEN

No report submitted.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

The Richmond Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is responsible for coordinating volunteers and private resources during emergencies and disasters. EMA provides leadership and develops plans for effective response to hazards, disasters or threats. Personnel are trained to protect the public and respond to both natural and manmade disasters. Our school has plans to cover most threats to the students.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency designed 211 to reduce the number of non-emergency calls made to 911. Those dialing 211 can get updated disaster and storm information during emergencies. The center operates around the clock during emergencies and from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. weekdays. Callers using cell phones in Berkshire County should not use 911 because the call goes to Northampton. Emergency cell phone calls should go to the Sheriffs' Communications Center in Pittsfield at 413-442-3693.

Richmond has reverse 911 to help with notification of hazards. If sirens sound for three minutes with an up and down tone, listen to local radio stations or cable TV channel 18 for information. We are still looking for volunteers. If interested, please call my home at (413) 698-2570 or office (413) 698-8600, or stop at our office at the Town Hall. Thanks once again to Richmond department heads and Selectmen for their cooperation.

Thanks to those who help keep the 911 listings current and help in updating and maintaining the street guide: the Assessors office, the Richmond Telephone Co. , Mr. James Cunningham Jr. , and emergency personnel including state police, fire, and local police. I would also like to thank Berkshire control radio dispatchers for their fine job. Thanks to Gerald M. Coppola, Dept. of Public Works for helping in emergencies, and Assistant Director Paul Sintoni.

Richmond EMA now has its own radio dispatch center at the Town Hall for emergencies. I am looking forward to another year of progress for the town of Richmond.
Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Grizey
Director, Richmond Emergency Management
1-28-11





BUILDING INSPECTOR

2010 saw the passing of long time Building Inspector Walter Potash. Walt was a special guy who always had a smile on his face and a story to tell. Soon after Walt's death the Selectmen hired me, Paul Greene, as the new Building Inspector. I have worked to make improvements to the permit process designed to make it easier for residents to navigate what can be at times a daunting process.

In 2010 the Building Inspection Department issued 93 permits:

New Dwellings	2
Interior Renovations	20
Garages/Sheds/Barns	7
Additions	15
Porches/ Decks/Gazebos	10
Pools	0
Pellet/Wood Stoves/Inserts/Chimneys	10
Windows/Roofing/Siding	15
Tent	3
Demolitions	5
Cement work	1
Insulation	2

Inquiries regarding building and zoning issued are welcome and encouraged. Our intent is to assist you in advancing your project from beginning to end with as few delays as possible.

In honor of Walter Potash,

Paul Greene
Building Inspector





ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

This year was a sad one with the passing of longtime Building Inspector Walt Potash. He was always a gentleman and fun to work with, he will be missed.

There were a couple challenges to zoning decisions this year; they are progressing through the appeals process as we speak and probably won't see the inside of a court room until 2012 or 2013.

As always please remember to plan accordingly when it comes to obtaining a building permit. Some permits may require a special permit which can take up to three months to grant. Also note, an order of conditions from ConCom or a Special Permit is NOT a building permit, it is just part of the process that some must go through to get a building permit. You must obtain a building permit prior to starting any work.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Swinson
Zoning Officer





BOARD OF HEALTH

In calendar year 2010 there were twelve permits issued for septic systems. Five permits were issued for minor repairs, and six were issued for major upgrades including new soil absorption systems, tanks, and pump chambers, if required. Five of the permits for major and minor upgrades were issued as a result of failed systems discovered during Title 5 inspections. No permits were issued for new residences.

Sixteen Title 5 septic system inspections were witnessed during the calendar year, an increase from the previous year. Seven systems passed inspection, three were designated failed, requiring a substantial upgrade, and six passed with minor repairs. Twelve percolation tests and soil evaluations were witnessed, eight for upgrade of failing systems, two for expansion of existing houses, and two for potential new construction.

There were five permits issued for drilling wells in 2009. Two permits were issued to drill additional wells for irrigation, and two wells were drilled to replace existing substandard shallow wells.

Solid waste tonnage collected in calendar year 2010 declined from 2009. Non-recyclable waste collected in 2010 was 579 tons versus 631 tons in 2009. Recyclable waste collected, including paper, containers, and scrap metal was 159 tons in 2010 versus 198 tons in 2009. The recycling percentage of total waste collected decreased slightly from 23.9% in 2009 to 21.6% in 2010. Bulky item and scrap metal collection drop-off events were held on Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends in 2010 and several household hazardous waste disposal events were held through the Southern Berkshire Hazardous Waste Collaborative. Eight tons of scrap metal was collected, for which the town received \$618 after the container rental and transport cost. The total tonnage of recyclable and non-recyclable solid waste collected has trended down over the last decade, from 912 tons in 2002 to 730 tons in 2010. Contracted costs for collection and disposal have escalated over the period, and are projected to increase in the future. The Town will be seeking proposals for a new solid waste collection and disposal contract after extending the existing contract for fiscal year 2010.

Board of Health members participated in local public health activities including attendance at meetings of the Berkshire County Boards of Health Association. Andy Fisher and Tony Segal attended workgroup meetings to discuss the regionalization of some public health functions, and attended meetings of the local emergency planning committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Pero, chair

Andrew Fisher

Dean Fulco

Anthony Segal

John Olander, Agent



COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSOCIATION

The Community Health Association is proud to report that our residents have taken comprehensive advantage of our health promotion programs. We have been very busy serving those in need with our clinics, educational programs, in home health promotion visits and community outreach. We believe that the provision of these services is essential for the health and well being of all residents and primarily, we thank all of you for your support.

The H1N1 outbreak had us all very busy from the fall of 2009 through the spring of 2010. CHA worked closely with emergency planners, Boards of Health, as well as the Mass. Dept. of Public Health to educate the public, organize educational events, outreach and clinic organization. We were also an integral member of the Central Berkshire H1N1 coalition as well as the South County BOH to plan, organize, and carry out clinics for the residents of Richmond and West Stockbridge. In the spring, we were able to reflect upon what we learned from the outbreak, which most importantly produced a cohesive county-wide outreach emergency protocol system.

In the early spring, we hosted a highly successful West Stockbridge Health Fair in collaboration with the BHS mobile van. With their help, we were able to offer free cholesterol, glucose, cardio pulmonary and nutritional screenings as well as scheduling of mammogram appointments. In addition, we provided health insurance assistance and follow up scheduling. The Richmond Health Fair in November was also very successful.

In April, we sponsored a family focused lecture series called "Living the Good Life: The Exploration of Nutrition and Exercise". The purpose of this series was to educate and dialog with parents on how to improve the physical wellness of our families. We want to thank the presenters for their passion and commitment to the optimal health of children. Laurence Cohen, MD and Stephanie Ambrose BS, fitness expert, both presented lectures on fitness and creative exercise for children and families. Diane Piraino MD, FAAP, Robert Hoechster, RD, LDN, and Tammy Jervas, Head of the Richmond School Food Service gave presentations on nutrition, family focused meal times and meal planning,

We also provided health promotion outreach service at Don and Caroline Johnson's annual apple pressing event in West Stockbridge this fall. They named Community Health as their local non profit organization of choice and were able to raise \$313.60. We thank them very much for their generosity.

We continue to offer two blood pressure and health promotion clinics weekly: Every Wednesday morning at the CHA office in West Stockbridge, and on Thursday morning at the Richmond Congregational Church. Now that the community room at the West Stockbridge town hall is complete, we will work closely with the Council on Aging and hope to provide a wide variety of programs for our seniors.

We held a total of 4 H1N1 clinics as well as 17 seasonal flu clinics. Special thanks to everyone at the Richmond and West Stockbridge Town Halls, Richmond School, and the Richmond Congregational Church for your complete support.

We gave 250 seasonal flu shots and a total of 310 H1N1 vaccinations. Our office was very busy with phone inquires as well as office visits.

Residents have been taking advantage of our free skilled nursing consultation visits. We believe that providing services such as venipuncture for lab tests, protime testing, administration of injections and general health promotion assessments in the home or office is essential for the health and well being of all residents. We administered a total of 560 vaccinations, 713 office/clinic evaluations, and 269 home visits in 2010. CHA also continued to work closely with Boards of Health from both towns for communicable disease follow up.

None of the many services we have offered and will continue to offer would be possible without the ongoing support of our two towns, the donations of those individuals who generously contributed to our spring (\$11,934) and winter (\$11,068) appeals, and the thoughtfulness of those who included us as recipients of memorial donations in honor of their loved ones. Thank you all for your support of our vision.

We look forward to serving your health needs in the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Emilie Jarrett RN, BSN
Director





DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

This is my twenty-fourth Town Report in as many years as your Highway Superintendent.

The winter of 2009-2010 had its share of snow, ice, and rain. 76.5" inches of snow and 15" of liquid, with much of it in the form of sleet or freezing rain, was recorded between the months of Nov. 1st to March 31st:

Nov. - .25" of snow and 2.8" of rain.

Dec. - 26" of snow and 3.4" of rain and ice.

Jan. - 17" of snow and 2.2" of rain and ice.

Feb. - 32.5" of snow and 2.7" of rain and ice.

Mar. - .75" of snow and 3.9" of rain and ice.

The department was out more than 40 times over the winter months either plowing or treating the roads with salt and sand. We used approximately 780 tons of road salt, and 1,210 tons of bivi chips. Approximately 358 overtime hours were used, the total of all three employees.

During the spring thaw the gravel roads were stabilized using 1,750 tons of dense grade base, screen gravel, and stone throughout the various roads along with 8,000 gallons of dust control on the heavily traveled gravel roads. We also did some relining of some deep ditches with 6" surge stone for erosion control.

Roadside mowing and trimming was done at least once throughout the town, and twice and three times if needed at some intersections for visibility proposes. Pothole patching, line painting, and replacing old or missing traffic and street signs were completed.

I and highway employee Bob Navin volunteered our time hosting two White Goods and Bulky Days last year (in May and in August). We hope to continue this service. Notices will be posted at Town Hall, the Post Office, and the Richmond Shores bulletin board with the dates.

One of the bigger projects completed this year was the repair of the large culvert on Summit Rd. just west of Route 41. Rather than excavating the culvert that was buried approximately 20 feet below Summit Rd., we opted to have it relined with a smaller special plastic culvert that was slid through the existing culvert pipe and then completely sealed with a grout material. From start to finish it took about three days to complete at a cost of \$26,650 - far less than it would have cost us to excavate the road and we avoided environmental problems with the stream bed.

The Town Beach continues to gain use over the summer months. Lifeguards Jenna Plant and Aimee LeBlanc have been very responsive in keeping the beach clean and safe. Thank you, ladies.

Equipment seems to be holding up, but we will be replacing picnic table tops and seats before the season starts. Thanks to White Wolf Enterprises for supplying the port-o-let at

the beach and for keeping the unit clean and fresh. The gate will continue to be closed at 7 PM nightly. Thanks to the Mass. State Police, for making unscheduled trips at the beach during the daytime and nighttime.

We really appreciate the Civic Association and the townspeople and students who go out every year to do the roadside cleanup. Yes, the roadsides are cleaner, and much safer when mowing them with big machines that can kick all kinds of debris and junk out onto the roadways.

Great thanks also go to Chief Bullett, Fran Malnati, and Tom Grizey for their help with traffic control, and The Richmond Fire Dept. for their help during the windy rainstorms that bring down trees and limbs. Thanks also go out to the Richmond Telephone Co. for their assistance with the flashing light at the Swamp and Lenox Rd. intersection.

As always, a special thanks to my crew Mike Lamke and Bob Navin for their continuous hard work throughout the entire unpredictable year. Believe me, I appreciate it. Also our summer help Rick Latimer - he's a tough act to follow. He's like a Timex watch.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerald M. Coppola,
Director of Public Works





CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT

There were 10 burials in Richmond cemeteries this year and 1 new lot was sold. Under the direction of the Town Administrator, tree removal from both Center and Cone Hill Cemeteries continues, which has improved the look of the grounds. This upcoming year will see additional tree work in Cone Hill Cemetery and further improvements to the entrance and landscaping at Center Cemetery.

Respectfully submitted

Steve Parsons,
Superintendent



Ongoing grave stone repair work in Center Cemetery



FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

It has been an especially busy year for the Richmond Free Public Library. Every month we have a faithful book discussion group that meets on the fourth Tuesday. Some of the books they have read this year are *A Lucky Irish Lad*, *Let the Great World Spin*, *The Lacy Reader*, *Outliers*, *Hotel at the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, and *Beatrice and Virgil*. We also hold a story time for pre-schoolers on the first Thursday of each month. We read stories, do a simple craft, and finish our time together with crackers and juice. In April the Richmond third grade came for their annual visit. We showed them around the library and showed them how to find different types of items whenever they go to any library. Next we held a scavenger hunt using book titles as the items to find.

The Summer Reading Program this year was called "Going Green at the Richmond Library". This program was sponsored by both the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and the Friends of the Richmond Library. Animal World Experience kicked off the summer with a program called "Going Green Around the World". They brought an array of live animals to show our children and explained how all life is interconnected. Seventy children and their parents came for this program. Twenty children signed up for the independent reading portion of the summer reading program. The children recorded the titles of the books they read and the time that they spent reading. Of the twenty children that signed up, twelve finished and turned in reading logs that showed all together our children read two hundred and eighty seven hours over the six week program.

In the fall Owen returned to listen to some of our youngest readers. Owen is a trained reading therapy dog. He is a very gentle black Newfoundland, who is a non-judgmental listener. Reading to Owen helps children who might otherwise be shy about reading out loud gain confidence. Owen has been coming to the library for several years.

Each year we invite local artists to display their paintings or photographs on the walls of the library. We started this year with watercolors by Josie Janson. When she took her work down in February, Karen Carmean put up her very colorful paintings of mostly pineapples. At a reception she explained just how she became so interested in painting pineapples and some of the brushes and paints that she used to create her pieces. It was a very entertaining evening.

After Karen, Doane Perry put up his lovely photographs. Many of his photographs were of scenes from around Richmond. We also had a reception for Doane. He discussed his years of taking pictures, what he looked for in the frame, and what he especially liked about some of his photos. If you are a local artist and would be interested in showing your work, please call the library. We are always looking for new artists to continue what has become a favorite tradition with our library's patrons.

In August pastel artist Greg Maichack came and did a pastel painting workshop called A Starry Night. This workshop used the work of Vincent Van Gogh as a guide for us to create our own Starry Night painting. Greg brought all the materials necessary for the evening. This workshop was paid for by a grant from the Richmond Cultural Council, a state agency.

In November, Lydia Cote´ conducted a workshop on binding your own books. We learned how to make a Japanese scrunch book and a hand bound journal. Lydia supplied all the materials. It proved to be much easier than we all thought it would be.

Finishing up the year was local author Ruth Bass. She discussed her latest book *Rose* which is a continuation of the story started in her book *Sarah’s Daughter*. These stories are based somewhat on stories from her own family’s history. Ruth read some of her favorite passages and answered questions on the writing process.

The Richmond Free Public Library continues to strive to provide the best possible library service to the Town of Richmond. We would not exist except for the generosity of the Town of Richmond who faithfully appropriates the money that keeps our doors open. For this we wish to thank our Board of Selectmen who have always been such strong library supporters.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace Mountain
Assistant Director

(Acting Director during the 6 months of Kristin Smith’s leave of absence)





FRIENDS OF THE RICHMOND LIBRARY

The Friends of the Richmond Library support the goals, objectives and interests of the Richmond Free Public Library. We do this by fundraising and volunteering. We plan special activities and help buy items that make the library the special place it is. We have 100 members and a board that consists of a president, vice president, treasurer, clerk and two members-at-large.

This year's board members are:

Margaret Beauregard – *President*

Dorothea Greene – *Vice President*

Nanci McConnell – *Treasurer*

Mary Blair – *Clerk*

Candy Mountain – *Member-at-large*

Sarah Pitcher-Hoffman – *Member-at-large*

This year we continued to support the library by selling the popular “01254” hats and bags and maintaining the library copy machine. The Friends donated money to the library to buy two new computers for the staff ports, a new vacuum cleaner and children’s DVDs to replace old favorite movies in the VHS format. The Friends supplied the refreshments for Doane Perry’s wonderful photography forum, the library’s holiday open house and Ruth Bass’s incredibly informative and entertaining forum. Again this year the Friends shared support with the Richmond Cultural Council for the children’s summer program kickoff highlight by donating money for the Animal World Experience. We supported the garden club who provide the beautiful flowers in the front of the library and decorated the library for the winter holiday season.

The Friends of the Richmond Library look forward to another year of supporting the Richmond Free Public Library and invite everyone to come to our Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Beauregard
President



REPORT FOR VETERANS SERVICES

No veterans sought services from my office during 2010. Under MGL Chapter 115, veterans seeking assistance are required to fill out an application to determine eligibility. As your veterans agent I can also assist with preparing claims to the Federal VA for Disability and Aid and Attendance programs. This office also assists veterans and dependents with emergency needs for housing, food, utilities, and prescriptions provided the veteran has an honorable discharge. Any veteran in need of assistance is encouraged to contact me.

Roseanne Frieri
Veterans Agent



Veterans' Day Luncheon at the school honoring Town Veterans.





SCHOOL COMMITTEE

A school committee must be responsive to its constituencies in governance, sensitive to the diverse needs of all learners, an advocate for students and learning before the people of the community and, as such, a vigorous ambassador for public education before all citizens.

- Massachusetts Association of School Committees

The past year brought a healthy mix of challenges and opportunities to the Richmond Consolidated School. Staffing changes, an increase in the number of school choice students, and facility issues made for an interesting but ultimately rewarding and productive year.

Longtime Principal Jenevra Strock became special education director for the Shaker Mountain School Union #70 (comprising the towns of Richmond, Hancock and New Ashford), and we embarked on a search for a new school leader. Superintendent Bill Ballen assembled a committee of 15 parents and teachers to select, interview, and recommend candidates for principal. Over a six-month period, the committee met regularly in an effort to find a candidate who would continue to promote high academic standards while retaining a focus on the arts, an integrated approach that has won accolades and has—in an increasingly competitive educational environment—successfully distinguished the Richmond Consolidated School from other Berkshire-based institutions of learning.

After a long, arduous search, the committee ultimately was unable to recommend a viable candidate to Bill Ballen and the school committee for a permanent appointment, and instead looked to an interim solution. We were indeed fortunate when Dr. William Travis, a recently retired education luminary who served as superintendent of the Pittsfield and Mt. Greylock School Districts, accepted Bill Ballen's offer to act as interim principal in Richmond. Dr. Travis has done an excellent job of leading the school. Working closely with Mr. Ballen, who shares his dedication to continuous evaluation and improvement, he has brought teachers, students, and parents together to strive for common goals, including boosting student MCAS scores and attracting choice families from nearby communities. At the time of this writing (mid-February), the principal search committee is reconvening to address the principal issue for the 2011-2012 school year.

To fill in for Donna McMartin, who took a medical leave of absence through June 2011, Jeanne Jones was hired as the second grade teacher. To replace other departing employees, we also welcomed Darlene McCauley as the school administrative assistant; Julia Soar as a speech therapist; Kelly Smedvig, Natalie Gingras, and Laura Volastro as paraprofessionals; Charles Cochran as the drama director; and Anne Wendling as a member of the food service team.

Since Richmond elected to participate in the school choice program in 2007, we have been delighted by the increasing number of families who choose to send their children to the Richmond Consolidated School in lieu of their default neighborhood school. As of now, we have 75 choice students, mainly from Pittsfield and West Stockbridge. We even have a family from Monterey! These students and families bring a robust new dimension to the Richmond-based school population. By all accounts, the integration has been smooth and comfortable for everyone involved.

We have faced some issues this past year with our building infrastructure. Design and construction issues related to the renovation have caused heating problems, including uneven

distribution of heat, throughout the building. During the harsh winter, one of our two boilers failed, resulting in several thousand dollars' worth of repairs and two missed school days. Our building custodian John Cudworth went above and beyond the call of duty, tackling the problem with remarkable dedication and resolve.

Superintendent Bill Ballen, Selectman Roger Manzolini, and School Committee Member Lauren Broussal were instrumental in negotiating a new three-year contract with Richmond teachers. This new contract, which will be in effect through 2013, includes clear guidelines for periodic teacher evaluations as well as an increase in the percentage of the health insurance premium paid by teachers themselves instead of the town.

The students and other members of the Richmond school community have benefited significantly this year from the extraordinary contributions of several parent volunteers. Amy Brentano and Adam Weinberg poured scores of hours and expertise into a labor of love that blossomed into the Peas on Earth garden, a community project that promises every summer to benefit students and Richmond residents alike. (We still need volunteers!) Chris Begley led an intensive, months-long, after-school Robotics session, providing students in grades four through eight with the chance to build and program their own robots; ten students ultimately represented Richmond during a regional competition on a Saturday in March. Jim Biancolo donated his technical skills and an inordinate amount of time to creating a brand new school website, saving us many thousands of dollars. The website is designed to enhance communication with students, teachers, parents, the wider Richmond community, and families interested in school choice. Kathy Massmiano and Hunter Green, the school's IT consultant, also worked very hard to bring this project to fruition. We welcome all of you to visit our website: www.richmondconsolidated.org.

The website is just one of many ways we hope to maintain a connection with members of the Richmond community who support the school with their tax dollars but who do not currently have children in the system. We want our fellow residents to understand, be proud of, and benefit from what we are able to achieve in our small but very special institution. Towards that end, the school is coordinating the annual town clean-up that was formerly led by resident Steve Yarmosky. Under the supervision of Cafeteria Director Tammy Jervas, the students also hosted the first of what will be an annual Veterans Day luncheon to honor our local seniors who served in the military. Tammy has begun preparing delicious lunches available every day for Richmond residents; costs usually range between \$5.00 and \$7.00 per day, and visitors can pick up the lunches to go or enjoy them in the cafeteria. During the cold winter months, we also open our doors before and after school hours to residents who wish to walk through the halls for early-morning exercise. Thanks to Bill Ballen and the generosity of chocolatier Joshua Needleman, we hosted the special Friday after-school Richmond Café for five weeks for all members of the community. The third grade continues with warm enthusiasm to invite to their classroom their Richmond senior friends; we hope the older residents enjoy this time together as much as the younger ones do! We welcome other ideas about how the school can be used during non-school hours for the enjoyment and benefit of our fellow residents.

Additionally, we have worked closely with the town to reduce energy costs, participating in a retrofit project with the electric company to save thousands of dollars. Using school choice funds, we shared in the costs of a new software accounting system for the town. The school committee also appropriated funding from the school choice revenue to enhance tech-

nology-based learning, an educational approach with tremendous merit that is being adopted by schools across the nation. We purchased 40 iPads for use by students as well as teacher training so that we can maximize the learning impact. We are also looking into other technology (e.g., classroom “clickers,” handheld devices that facilitate instate student responses) that provide an efficient and engaging way for teachers to understand what lessons and subjects the children are able to absorb, and what areas they need to focus on.

We are also exploring creative ways in which we might be able to extend the school day without increasing costs (e.g., staggering teacher hours). The administrators and school committee are making a very concerted effort to stay abreast of opportunities on the state and national level from which our town and students can benefit. For example: we worked with our local teachers’ union to agree jointly to sign a letter of commitment in Round 1 of Race for the Top that made Massachusetts eligible for significant federal funds. (In fact, Massachusetts was eventually deemed one of the 10 winners.) We strive to be proactive, not reactive; the Patrick Administration has made education a clear priority, and Bill Ballen and the school committee are working hard to keep informed as the state government rolls out initiatives, grants, and other incentives to implement innovative programs and administrative approaches.

Finally, it is with a very heavy heart that we must bid adieu to a school committee member who has given her own heart and soul to the Richmond Consolidated School for the past 13 years. Lauren Broussal, whose vision and personal dedication have greatly inspired fellow school committee members, including me, has decided not to run this year for a seat on the school committee.

If anyone deserves a break from her intensive volunteer position, Lauren does. For over a decade, she has served as a determined, tireless steward of our local educational system. She has stood firm in her conviction to deliver to the children of Richmond the best possible learning opportunities, curricula, and school framework. Shortly after I became a member of the school committee, Lauren pointed out during a meeting that with every new challenge, in struggling to determine the right answer, she asked herself the same question: “What solution will best benefit the children?” From the first time she took her seat at the table, this noble goal has been her guiding force.

Lauren’s absence on the school committee will be felt very keenly. But her contributions will not be forgotten; her skilled leadership will resonate in the halls of our town’s beloved institution, and will be reflected in the impressive achievements of our Richmond graduates, for many years to come.

As always, we welcome members of the community to attend our school committee meetings, held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in the school conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Broussal,
Chairperson





SHAKER MOUNTAIN SCHOOL UNION REPORT

With all of our snow finally melted away, and some spring sunshine warming our faces, it's time for me to present my annual report of the School Union for the 2010-2011 School Year.

In Hancock, we have seen some dramatic changes this year, and it looks like these changes will continue through next year and beyond. When Principal Sarah Madden resigned to accept a Principal's position in North Adams late in August 2010, the School Committee and I quickly moved to find a replacement. Jeanne Filiault of North Adams was hired to replace Sarah and to teach our Kindergarten as well. Jeanne has spent her first year at Hancock getting to know the staff, the students, the parents and the Hancock Community, and we know that her comfort level will continue to grow next year. We also lost staff member Michelle Walden, our Special Needs/3&4th Grade Teacher just before school opened in September. Fortunately, Laurie Burdick, a resident of Lanesborough and a long-term substitute teacher, was available. Laurie was hired to teach the 3/4th Grade, and she has done a great job in her first year at Hancock. Christine Handerek-Peralta was also hired to replace Michelle as our Special Needs teacher, and she has worked hard to handle these duties. Looking forward into next year, we will need to replace our long-time Music teacher Carolyn Markowski, who is retiring and our Physical Education teacher Roberta Cory who is retiring as well. We thank Carolyn and Roberta for their many years of service to the children of Hancock and wish them well as they move into this next stage of their lives.

Also at Hancock, the first phase of our renovation project is complete, as insulation and a new roof have been installed over the auditorium. With this work finished before Christmas break, we were able to breathe easy as our long winter wore on. The next phase of our project is scheduled to be completed in late spring or early summer, and includes new duct-work and insulation in the classrooms, along with new ceilings, lighting fixtures and covers for the bookcases.

In Richmond, this year proved to be one of change as well. We hired Dr. William Travis, recently retired Superintendent from the Mount Greylock Regional School District, as our interim Principal, and he immediately made his presence felt by his calm, respectful and effective style of leadership. Bill drew high praise from staff, parents and the Richmond Community at large, but his most ardent supporters were the Richmond students who responded to him enthusiastically. We thank Bill for his hard work and dedication to the Richmond Community, and the experience and leadership he brought to us.

We are currently engaged in another Principal's search at Richmond with the hope that we will be successful in finding a permanent Principal for the school. A highly effective Search Committee continues to work hard toward this effort.

Change was also evident as Jenevra Strock, our former Principal at Richmond, succeeded me as Special Education Director for the Union. Jenevra proved to be a highly motivated and dedicated professional who was a positive presence at all of our IEP meetings both at Hancock and Richmond and at several other area schools where our students are enrolled. Jenevra also worked hard to provide valuable assistance to new Special Education staff at both Hancock and Richmond and we worked closely together on several Special Education issues, including a recent Program Review from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

We continue to build positive relationships with our communities through various activities. In Hancock, we worked closely with the Selectmen and our School Committee on our building renovation project, and continued the tradition of inviting our residents to school for the annual Thanksgiving Day Feast. In Richmond, we partnered with the Town on a new software system for our payroll and expenditure accounts, as well as welcoming the community into the school for several events, including our first Veteran's Day Luncheon, an after-school chocolate café, with treats prepared by our students, and other special activities. While New Ashford does not have a school, tuitioning its students to Lanesborough, Mount Greylock and McCann, we work closely with the Town to provide the best education for their students, as we negotiate agreements and represent their interest at several meetings each year.

Technology continues to advance in the Union as well. In Hancock, we upgraded our system with the purchase of new software and laptop computers, and in Richmond we continued our technology upgrades with the purchase of iPads and additional software as well. In addition, we completely revamped our website in Richmond, with kudos to School Committee Chair Christine Triantos and parent Jim Biancola for their work on this project.

So, as you can see, we continue to be busy. And, finally, I would be remiss if I did not recognize two veteran School Committee members who are retiring from office this spring. Lydia Cassavaugh has served the Hancock Community as a member of the School Committee for several years. With her youngest son Ben graduating from New Lebanon High School this Spring, Lydia is ready to pass the mantel on to someone else. In Richmond, our former Chair, Lauren Broussal, is retiring as well. Lauren's youngest, Andy, is graduating from Monument Mountain Regional High School this year and Lauren will be bidding the Committee adieu as well. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Lauren and Lydia for their many years of service to their respective communities, and to the students, staff and parents of Hancock and Richmond. We will miss them both but wish them well knowing that they will continue to stay involved somehow.

Respectfully submitted,

William Ballen
Superintendent

TOWN BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & MISC. REPORTS





AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

No report submitted.





CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On January 5th 2011, the Board of Selectmen signed a new 10 year licensing agreement with Time Warner Cable. We would like to thank the Town Administrator for his leadership in restarting the long stalled negotiations between the Town and Time Warner.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Swinson





CULTURAL COUNCIL

No report submitted.



ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The past twelve months have seen significant progress in the Town's efforts to conserve energy. Working with the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources and receiving considerable assistance from Matt Kerwood, the Committee was able to have all Town buildings' electrical lighting systems audited and replacement lighting systems were installed. 70% of the funding for the replacements came from Western Mass Electric Company with the Town paying the remaining 30%, through an interest free loan from WMECO.

Richmond Energy Conservation Committee Energy Consumption for Town Buildings

2008

	Electricity		Heating Fuel Oil	
	KWH	\$	Gal	\$
Richmond Consolidated School	321,280	\$52,430.00	22,192	\$66,169
Richmond Town hall	22,343	\$4,320.00	1,453	\$4,283
Richmond Volunteer Firehouse	13,744	\$2,630.00	1,312	\$3,612
DPW Town Garage	13,033	\$2,654.00	767	\$2,039
Richmond Library	8,023	\$1,886.00	1,410	\$4,132
Total	378,423	\$63,920	27,134	\$80,235
Heating degree days	6,024			

2009

	Electricity		Heating Fuel Oil	
	KWH	\$	Gal	\$
Richmond Consolidated School	308,480	\$28,619.00	29,712	\$80,456
Richmond Town hall	22,180	\$3,228.00	1,913	\$6,165
Richmond Volunteer Firehouse	12,350	\$2,040.00	1,419	\$4,500
DPW Town Garage	13,888	\$2,388.00	1,179	\$3,770
Richmond Library	8,195	\$1,353.00	1,250	\$3,919
Total	365,093	\$37,628	35,473	\$98,810
Heating degree days	7,675			

2010

	Electricity		Heating Fuel Oil	
	KWH	\$	Gal	\$
Richmond Consolidated School	286,720	\$16,573.00	21,933	\$48,413
Richmond Town hall	21,422	\$1,490.00	1,335	\$2,963
Richmond Volunteer Firehouse	11,027	\$1,024.00	822	\$1,759
DPW Town Garage	13,593	\$1,524.00	815	\$1,677
Street/Hazard Lighting	5,335	\$1,173		
Sewer	7,431	\$1,711		
Richmond Library	8,156	\$934.00	1,077	\$2,330
Total	353,684	\$24,429	25,982	\$57,142
Heating degree days	7,001			



FENCE VIEWERS

Apparently Richmond has good fences; no neighbors called. Please be aware that your fence viewers are available to help resolve a fence-line dispute; however, determining property boundaries (lines) is not within our job description. Should you encounter a fence-line issue, please call and we'll do whatever we can to bring about a solution.

Stanley Iwanowicz

Alan Hanson

Roger Manzolini

Fence viewers





LAND TRUST REPORT

The mission of the Richmond Land Trust (RLT) is to preserve the rural character of our town through land conservation and thoughtful development. Over the past twenty years a total of 804 acres have been preserved. Of that amount, 616 acres are covered by Conservation Restrictions. In addition to this, we are awaiting approval from the State for another ten acres. A Conservation Restriction (CR) allows the owner to continue to own and use the land as open space, but not to develop it. If the land changes hands, the CR goes with it in perpetuity.

A few Town Land Use Maps are available as well as a couple of Nancy Hull's limited edition Espalier Apples paintings for sale. Contact Dick Stover if you are interested in either one or both.

The Annual Pie Social was held at the Grant Farm on March Hare Road on a beautiful sunny day. Once again RLT co-sponsored the event with the Richmond Historical Society and the Richmond Civic Association. The Richmond Garden Club provided us with a colorful display of mums, which were all sold. Thank you one and all.

This year's Charles and Mary Kusik Citizenship Award went to two very deserving people, Pat and Fran Malnati, for their many years of contributions to the town as volunteers and supporters. This year's Nancy Hull Environmental Award went to the Richmond Consolidated School in support of their vegetable garden. This award is named for the late Nancy Hull, a naturalist whose artistic vision and personal commitment embraced the preservation of earth's beauty and the conservation of our environment.

Financially, the Land Trust functions with income derived from membership donations and some return on investments to pay costs of its preservation activities. Each year RLT makes contributions to the Town of Richmond in lieu of property taxes on land owned by the Trust, and to the Berkshire Natural Resource Council for services rendered.

RLT officers and other board members encourage landowners interested in preserving the rural character of Richmond to call with questions, comments and ideas about their own properties or other significant lands that contribute to the rural aspects of the town. Many of the best Land Trust projects have started with informal conversations about fields, woods, and views which residents enjoy.

During this year one of our founders, Mim Kimball, passed away and is sorely missed. Jackie Rawson and Jim Mooney resigned from the board after many years of dedicated service.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Stover, President

Ruth Bass, Vice President

John Mason, Treasurer

Christopher Magee, Secretary

Other Board Members

Russell Clark, Bernice Dawson, Merton Flemings, Stanley Iwanowicz,
Ann Larkin, Barbara May, John Keenum, Nanci McConnell,
Richard Mescon, Randolph Nelson, Marion Grant





SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

No scholarships were given in 2010 from either of the scholarship funds invested by the town. With a policy of awarding only the interest from the various funds, the Anita Chapman Scholarship directors felt too little money had been earned in the state-invested Sarah MacDonald and Mildred Wheeler scholarship funds. Each fund earned less than \$50 in the previous year.

Private scholarship funds in Richmond fared better, although the interest earned was down on all fronts. Chapman awards of \$1,000 went to Jordan Piazza and Patrick Hennessey, with Katherine Sadighi given \$800 from the Chapman fund.

The Richmond Volunteer Fire Department/Malnati Family Scholarship once again gave generous support to Richmond students with \$700 awards to Leah Barack and Kimberly Donovan, plus a \$150 scholarship to Arielle Fabiano, given in memory of the late George Kingsley, a long-time department volunteer.

Alyssa Nejaime received a \$550 Hazel and William Dickson Scholarship, and Joseph Martin was awarded \$250 from the Joyce C. Spence fund. The Spence fund, formerly invested by the town, is now in the hands of the Chapman committee.

The awards committee for all the scholarships was made up of officers from five Richmond civic organizations.

All recipients are full-time Richmond residents who are either entering college or already enrolled. One application form covers the student for all six scholarship funds.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Bass
Chair, Anita Chapman
Scholarship Committee





TAX TITLE CUSTODIAN

There has been no change in the status of properties we are currently holding in Tax Title, however the Town continues to advance the foreclosure process for 40 Fire House Lane and 8 Willow Road through the Land Court.

In 2010, the Tax Collector began the legal Tax Title process with additional delinquent taxpayers. As a result of this, additional properties were placed in Tax Title period.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Lane,
Tax Title Custodian

What happens if I do not pay my tax bill?

Tax payments must be received on or before the due date to avoid interest charges.

If payment is not made within 30 days of the original date of mailing:

1. The account will begin to accrue interest at the rate of 14% per annum, computed from the date the bill was due.
2. A demand notice will be sent.
3. A demand fee of \$15.00 is charged against the account.

If the account remains outstanding 14 days after the issuance of the demand notice:

1. A warrant notice is sent.
2. A warrant fee of \$9.00 is charged against the account.

Please note that demand and warrant notices are sent only on the third and fourth quarter bills.

If the account remains delinquent after June 30th of the fiscal year:

1. A tax lien (a legal claim placed on property for debt) is placed on the property and is recorded with the Registry of Deeds.
2. In addition, the property is placed in the tax title system.

Please note that a tax lien is the first step in the foreclosure process.

All taxes, costs and interest must be paid to prevent foreclosure.





ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

This report covers the activity before the Town of Richmond Zoning Board of Appeals for the calendar years seven petitions for 2009 and 2010 since a report was not submitted for the 2010 Town meeting. There were six petitions for special permit in 2009 and one application for a variance. The Board acted on ten petitions for special permit or variance in 2010 as well as one appeal from the action of the Zoning Officer.

We note again that the Board does not meet regularly, but only meets as required after petitions are filed. We ask that three copies of the petitions are filed with information sufficient to describe the project. This information is necessary to allow the Board to evaluate whether there will be impacts to the surrounding neighborhood as to traffic, water flow, and pedestrian safety. The Zoning Board of Appeals also evaluates whether the proposed work requested in a special permit will be detrimental to adjacent uses or will create hazards affecting public health, safety or general welfare. With regard to petitions for variance, the Board looks for specific hardships which would result if the By-law was literally enforced. The hardship may be financial or otherwise but the claimed hardship must relate to soil conditions, shape or topography of the land at issue and not affecting generally the zoning district in which the land is located.

The Board considered the applications for special permit and for variance in 2009 as follows:

2009

On July 23, 2009, the ZBA approved the application of Bruce A. Andrews, Trustee of the Richmond Pond Cottage Nominee Trust requesting a Special Permit with conditions to alter a pre-existing, non-conforming structure located at 250 Branch Farm Road.

On October 22, 2009, the Richmond Zoning Board of Appeals approved the Petition for Special Permit of Lauranne Carmel for property located at 101 Monument Circle, to alter her home by adding a one bedroom addition on a pre-existing, non-conforming lot.

On October 22, 2009, the ZBA approved the Petition of Linda Edelstein to Extend Two Previously Granted Special Permits, one dated October 24, 2007 and another dated September 22, 2008, for two years from the expiration date of the first permit to October 24, 2011, on property at 20 East Beach Road.

On November 10, 2009, the ZBA approved the Petition for Special Permit for Carl B. Foote and A. Laurie Foote permitting the reconstruction of a portion of their home including the addition of a deck on a non-conforming lot located at 258 Branch Farm Road. The granted special permit included the right to construct a new foundation under the cottage to replace the existing piers which were failing.

On June 4, 2009, the ZBA approved the application of Andy and Linda Kay for a Special Permit to alter the pre-existing non-conforming structure located at 39 Cherry Road.

On September 3, 2009, the ZBA approved the Petition for Special Permit from Thomas M. Potter and Daniel R. Mathieu for property located at 2019 State Road.

On March 12, 2009, the Richmond Zoning Board of Appeals approved the Petition for Variance for property owned by David Morrison, Jay Phelps, H.A. Scott Phelps, Maurice Garofoli, James Cunningham and Kenneth Lawlor, Trustees of the Richmond Volunteer Fire Department, as filed by Western Massachusetts Electric Company acting as Petitioner, to replace an existing 30 foot wood utility pole with a new 85 foot wood utility pole with dipole and whip antennas.

On October 22, 2009, the ZBA approved the Petition for Special Permit from Alex & Sabina Rosenblum for property located at 311 Shore Road, to reconstruct a portion of their home and add a deck on a non-conforming lot.

2010

The Board considered applications for Special Permit and for Variance in 2010 as well as one appeal from the action of the Zoning Officer as follows:

On March 4, 2010 the Board acted on the petition of Michael J. and Christine G. Viola for a Special Permit to re-establish a residential use at property they own at 257 Shore Drive.

On May 13, 2010, the Board approved three Petitions for Special Permit.

The first by Burton and Linda Edelstein to repair premises located at 10 Elm Road.

The second by George W. Jervas to raise the level of an existing house, install a new foundation and rebuild a deck and stairs on property he owns at 208 Shore Road. The Board approved the Petition subject to conditions.

The third by George M. Cerviera and Anne M. Cerviera to construct an addition on property they own at 1817 Dublin Road.

On June 15, 2010, the Board approved three Petitions for Special Permit.

The first by Tom M. Notarnicola to add a screen porch and family room at property he owns at 9 Cherry Hill Road. The Board met to act on Notarnicola's Petition on April 1, 2010, May 13, 2010 and finally on June 15, 2010. As a result of the meetings, Mr. Notarnicola revised his application and plans. As such, the Board unanimously approved the revised application for Special Permit.

The second by Martha E. Joyner, Trustee of the JZJ Richmond Nominee Trust to add a second story and remodel the interior and exterior of the residence located at 18 Boat Lane. Construction at 18 Boat Lane had started prior to the application for Special Permit but had been halted once the applicant understood that a Special Permit was required. The Board approved the Permit with the conditions that during the construction phase, no portion of Boat Lane would be obstructed

and that no construction activities involving carpentry or the use of power tools would take place outside of the period Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The third by Joane E. Cornell for property she owns at 706 Dublin Road.

Also on June 15, 2010 the Board considered the application of Roseanne M. Frieri to add a three season room on property located at 117 Chestnut Road. The Board considered the fact that notwithstanding a recent change to the Zoning By-law and specifically Section 5.6(d) with regard to the reduced set-back for permitted accessory structures in the Shore District, the construction of a three season room as an extension to the primary structure on the premises was not permitted as proposed as there would be encroachment further into the setback than the existing use. At the Petitioner's request, the application was withdrawn without prejudice and no further action was taken.

On August 24, 2010, the Zoning Board of Appeals approved the application of John M. Harmon and Evelyn W. Harmon to reconstruct a portion of their home at 18 East Beach Road.

Finally, on Thursday, October 21, 2010 the Board approved the application of Michael W. Till and Gaynor E. Gagliardi Till. Initially the applicants requested a Variance but the Board quickly ascertained that only a Special Permit was required in order to extend a pre-existing non-conforming structure located at 56 Hemlock Road.

The Board also considered the Request for Enforcement filed by James and Margaret Beauregard for purported violations with the Zoning By-law at abutting property located at 800 West Road, owned by Kevin and Susan Holden. The Request for Enforcement was reported to the Zoning Enforcement Officer but no violation was found. As such, an appeal was filed with the Zoning Board of Appeals pursuant to G.L. c.40A, Section 15. The Board found that the Petitioner had presented sufficient evidence to substantiate a violation of the Zoning By-law and that the Respondents' use of the premises was not in conformity with the Zoning By-law. The matter was remanded to the ZEO for enforcement. The Respondent timely filed an appeal and the matter is presently pending before the Berkshire Superior Court.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew M. Hochberg, CHAIRPERSON

**cc: Mr. John Mason
Mr. Leslie Abramowitz
Ms. Christine Abramowitz
Ms. Kathy Noto
Mr. Stevan Patterson
Mr. Richard Berlin**

2010
TOWN MEETING
WARRANTS





WARRANT FOR THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

May 26, 2010

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Berkshire, ss

To any of the Constables of the Town of Richmond in said County, Greetings:

In the name of said Commonwealth, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Richmond qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Richmond Consolidated School of said Richmond on May 26, 2010 at 7:00 PM and then and there to act upon the following articles:

ARTICLE 1- To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$68,000 to the Road Maintenance Account. *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 2- To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$4,000 for the purpose of funding the purchase of a new mower for use by the town and school. *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 3- To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$24,000 to the Winter Roads Account. *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 4- To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$5,000 to the Fire Department Account. *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 5- To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$3,160 to the Town Administrator Salary Account. *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 6- To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$1,657 to the Town Secretary Salary Account. *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 7- To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$2,184 to the Town Treasurer Salary Account. *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 8- To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate from Certified Free cash the sum of \$100,000 to the Stabilization Account. *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 9- To see if the town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 83 sections 16A to 16F, inclusive, which allows for the placement of a sewer charge lien upon the failure to pay the annual Sewer Operation and Maintenance by the due date of said bill. *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

Given under our hands this 5th day of May, 2010

MARGUERITE J. RAWSON, CHAIRMAN
ALAN B. HANSON
ROGER W. MANZOLINI
BOARD OF SELECTMEN





WARRANT FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

May 26, 2010

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Berkshire, ss

To any of the Constables of the Town of Richmond in said County, Greetings:

In the name of said Commonwealth, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Richmond qualified to vote in town affairs to meet in the Consolidated School of said Richmond on May 26, 2010, at 7:30 PM, and then and there to act upon the following:

[Consent Calendar- Articles 1-5]

ARTICLE 1- To act upon the reports of the Town Officers and Committees and give authority and instruction in relation thereto. *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 2- 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. *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 3- To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$500 from perpetual care fund interest to the cemetery expense account. *(Approved by the Finance Committee) (Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 4- 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 establishment of revolving funds for the purposes 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:

Council on Aging transportation, elder care and other services	\$20,000
Board of Health Inspection Services with the Agent to receive his prevailing pay and members to receive \$17.00 per hour for performing inspections	\$20,000
Board of Health Home composting bins	\$2,000
Board of Health recycling bins	\$2,000
Inspection Services/Selectmen	\$15,000

Berkshire Scenic Mountain Act/Conservation Commission	\$5,000
Richmond Preschool/School Committee	\$25,000
Dog licenses/Town Clerk	\$1,000
Burning permits/Fire Department	\$500
Trench inspections/Fire Department	\$1,000
Cable television fees/Cable Committee	\$10,000
Hancock Fire Services	\$2,000
Chapter 148A Hearings Officer	\$1,000
Richmond Pond Weed Removal	\$5,000

(Approved by the Finance Committee)

ARTICLE 5- To see if the town will vote to appropriate and accept any monies appropriated for use by the Massachusetts Highway Department for Chapter 90 highway aid for maintenance and reconstruction of Town roads and to fund the appropriation by transferring said amounts from available funds. Said funds shall carry over from year to year until spent by the town and shall be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in accordance with Chapter 90 of the General Laws. *(Approved by the Finance Committee) (Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 6- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as shall be deemed necessary for the upkeep and repair of the buildings, equipment, highways and cemeteries and for all other charges and expenses of the town for the year and to set the salaries and compensation of all elected officers of the town as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws. [Fiscal Year 2010 amounts are shown for comparative purposes. Please see the Explanations section following this warrant for more information] *(Approved by the Finance Committee) (Approved by the voters unanimously)*

General Government	Final FY 2010	Request FY 2011	Increase	% Change
1 Assessors Salaries	3,600	3,600	- 0	0.0%
Chairman-1200, 2nd Mbr. 1200				
3rd Mbr. 1200				
2 Assessors Expenses	26,510	22,534	(3,976)	-15.0%
3 Assessor Clerk	22,795	23,023	228	1.0%
4 Audit	18,000	15,000	(3,000)	-16.7%
5 Moderator Salary	80	80	- 0	0.0%
6 Selectmen Salaries	5,250	5,250	- 0	0.0%
Each Member-\$1,750				
7 Selectmen Expenses	2,000	2,000	- 0	0.0%
8 Town Clerk Salary	8,912	9,002	90	1.0%
9 Town Clerk Expenses	2,422	2,422	- 0	0.0%
10 Treasurer Salary	13,148	17,530	4,382	33.3%
11 Treasurer Incentive	1,000	1,000	- 0	0.0%
12 Treasurer's Expenses	2,200	2,200	- 0	0.0%
13 Town Accountant Salary	14,462	14,607	145	1.0%

Richmond Annual Town Report - 2010

14 Town Accountant Expenses	950	950	- 0	0.0%
15 Tax Collector Salary	13,148	13,280	132	1.0%
16 Tax Collector/Treasurer Assistant (NEW)	- 0	4,000	4,000	
17 Tax Collector Expenses	6,615	7,590	975	14.7%
18 Town Secretary	20,660	20,867	207	1.0%
19 Town Counsel	4,000	4,000	- 0	0.0%
20 Town Report	5,500	5,500	- 0	0.0%
21 Town Hall	17,100	17,100	- 0	0.0%
22 Elections and Voter Registration	4,400	4,400	- 0	0.0%
23 Town Admin Salary	46,340	50,881	4,541	9.8%
24 Town Admin Expenses	1,400	1,400	- 0	0.0%
25 Conservation Commission Expenses	1,173	1,118	(55)	-4.7%
26 Conservation Agent Salary	10,400	10,504	104	1.0%
27 Historical Commission	361	361	- 0	0.0%
28 Planning Board	285	285	- 0	0.0%
29 Recreation Committee	4,750	4,750	- 0	0.0%
30 Council on Aging	2,375	2,375	- 0	0.0%
31 Finance Committee	130	- 0	(130)	-100.0%
32 Tax Collection Services (NEW)	- 0	5,000	5,000	100.0%
General Government- TOTAL	259,966	272,609	12,643	4.9%

	Final	Request		
<u>Protection - Persons and Property</u>	FY 2010	FY 2011	Increase	% Change
33 Police Chief Salary	2,474	2,499	25	1.0%
34 Police Dept. Expenses	1,128	1,128	- 0	0.0%
35 County Communications	9,135	9,410	275	3.0%
36 Constable Salaries	1,250	1,250	- 0	0.0%
37 Constable Expenses	250	250	- 0	0.0%
38 Animal Control Officer Sal	2,474	2,499	25	1.0%
39 Animal Control Off Expenses	1,000	1,000	- 0	0.0%
40 Fire Department	36,531	46,652	10,121	27.7%
41 Fire House Rent	8,000	8,000	- 0	0.0%
42 Tree Warden	6,935	6,935	- 0	0.0%
43 Emergency Management	3,124	3,124	- 0	0.0%
44 Dutch Elm	270	- 0	(270)	-100.0%
45 Insect Pest Control	270	- 0	(270)	-100.0%
46 Building Inspector Salary	5,565	5,621	56	1.0%
47 Building Inspector Expenses	1,995	1,995	- 0	0.0%
48 Building Inspector (Alter)	240	240	- 0	0.0%
49 Zoning Enforcement Officer	2,995	3,025	30	1.0%
50 Zoning Enforcement Expenses	230	230	- 0	0.0%
51 Inspection Services	100	100	- 0	0.0%
Protection- TOTAL	83,966	93,958	9,992	11.9%

	Final	Request		
<u>Health</u>	FY 2010	FY 2011	Increase	% Change
52 Board of Health Salaries	850	850	- 0	0.0%
Chairman-\$250				
Members- \$150 each				
53 Board of Health Expenses	2,000	2,000	- 0	0.0%
54 Board of Health Agent Salary	9,103	9,194	91	1.0%
55 Board of Health Agent Expenses	1,260	1,260	- 0	0.0%

Richmond Annual Town Report - 2010

56 Animal Inspector	192	192	- 0	0.0%
57 Rubbish Disposal	149,000	149,000	- 0	0.0%
58 Community Health Services	19,475	19,475	- 0	0.0%
59 Nuisance Abatement (NEW)	-	2,000	2,000	100.0%
<i>Health- TOTAL</i>	<i>181,880</i>	<i>183,971</i>	<i>2,091</i>	<i>1.1%</i>

	Final	Request		
<u>Highways</u>	FY 2010	FY 2011	Increase	% Change
60 Machinery Maintenance	50,000	50,000	- 0-	0.0%
61 Road Construction	51,000	53,550	2,550	5.0%
62 Road Maintenance	87,048	91,143	4,095	4.7%
63 Town Garage	14,010	14,010	- 0-	0.0%
64 Winter Roads	130,000	136,420	6,420	4.9%
65 Gravel Roads	38,000	38,000	- 0-	0.0%
66 Vacation and Sick Pay	10,371	12,282	1,911	18.4%
67 Private Roads	2,500	3,000	500	20.0%
68 Beaver Control	3,000	3,000	- 0-	0.0%
<i>Highways- TOTAL</i>	<i>385,929</i>	<i>401,405</i>	<i>15,476</i>	<i>4.0%</i>

	Final	Request		
<u>Unclassified</u>	FY 2010	FY 2011	Increase	% Change
69 Berkshire County Retirement	82,648	82,290	(358)	-0.4%
70 Berkshire Regional Planning Commission	1,020	1,020	- 0	0.0%
71 Cemetery Superintendent Salary	5,301	5,355	54	1.0%
72 Cemetery Expenses	1,000	1,000	- 0	0.0%
73 Group Insurance	90,000	95,000	5,000	5.6%
74 Insurance and Bonding	66,000	66,000	- 0	0.0%
75 Library	47,365	47,858	493	1.0%
76 Library Rent	11,100	11,100	- 0	0.0%
77 Memorial Day	140	140	- 0	0.0%
78 Stationery and Office Supply	9,120	9,120	- 0	0.0%
79 Unemployment Reserve	1,000	1,000	- 0	0.0%
80 Banking Services	450	450	- 0	0.0%
81 Computer Payroll Services	4,500	4,500	- 0	0.0%
82 Medicare	32,000	33,500	1,500	4.7%
83 Veteran's Agent Salary	1,000	1,010	10	1.0%
84 Veterans' Aid	19,000	10,000	(9,000)	-47.4%
85 Stray Animals	100	100	- 0	0.0%
86 Town Building Maint.	12,400	12,400	- 0	0.0%
87 Town Beach	9,000	9,000	- 0	0.0%
88 FICA	27,000	- 0	(27,000)	-100.0%
89 Legal Advertising	4,000	4,000	- 0	0.0%
90 Group Purchasing	400	600	200	50.0%
91 Training	700	700	- 0	0.0%
92 Office Equipment/Software Support	7,000	12,000	5,000	71.4%
93 Richmond Pond Weeds	10,000	10,000	- 0	0.0%
94 Misc. Expenses	- 0	700	700	100.0%
<i>Unclassified- TOTAL</i>	<i>442,244</i>	<i>418,843</i>	<i>(23,401)</i>	<i>-5.3%</i>

<i>LINE ITEM BUDGET- TOTAL</i>	<i>1,353,985</i>	<i>1,370,786</i>	<i>16,801</i>	<i>1.2%</i>
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ARTICLE 7- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,000 for the purchase of new radios for the Fire Department. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)* *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 8- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purchase of Wildland gear for the Fire Department. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)* *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 9- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to the reserve fund. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)* *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 10- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,818,691 for the support of the schools. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)* *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 11- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,000 for special education expenses. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)* *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 12- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,500 for the conservation land trust fund. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)* *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 13- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$185,000 for the stabilization fund. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)* *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 14- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for a Town Hall Repair Stabilization Fund, the purpose of which is to make repairs and upgrades to the Town Hall. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)* *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 15- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000 for a food and fuel emergency assistance program to be administered by the Board of Selectmen for the benefit of low income Richmond residents, with any unexpended funds to carry over from to year to year until expended by the town. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)*

ARTICLE 16- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for activities associated with the continued remediation and foreclosure activities being undertaken by the town for the property located at 40 Firehouse Lane. *(Approved by the Finance Committee)* *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 17- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$480,248 for a principal and interest payment on the school bond, with the appropriation to be reduced by the annual grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (*Approved by the Finance Committee*) (*Approved by the voters unanimously*)

ARTICLE 18- To see if the town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$216,338 to operate the sewer enterprise, as follows:

Salaries	\$15,000
Expenses	7,977
Emergency Reserve	10,000
Debt Payment	173,361
Total	\$216,338

And that \$216,338 be raised as follows:

Department receipts	\$216,338
Total	\$216,338

(*Approved by the Finance Committee*) (*Approved by the voters unanimously*)

ARTICLE 19- To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$45,000 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 Comstar 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. (*Approved by the Finance Committee*) (*Approved by the voters unanimously*)

ARTICLE 20- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 for the removal of trees and for monument repair within town cemeteries. (*Approved by the Finance Committee*) (*Approved by the voters unanimously*)

ARTICLE 21- To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for water quality testing and mitigation at the former town landfill. (*Approved by the Finance Committee*) (*Approved by the voters unanimously*)

ARTICLE 22- To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate from the Stabilization Account the sum of \$80,000 for the purchase of a new truck for the Highway Department. (*Approved by the Finance Committee*) (*Approved by the voters unanimously*)

ARTICLE 23- To see if the town will vote to add the following new Section to the town's Right-to-Farm by-law:

Resolution of Disputes

Any person who seeks to complain about the operation of a farm may, notwithstanding pursuing any other available remedy, file a grievance with the Selectboard. The filing of the grievance does not suspend the time within which to pursue any other available remedies that the aggrieved may have. The Selectboard shall forward a copy of the grievance to the appropriate town authorities, including but not limited to the Board of Health and/or Zoning Board of Appeals. The Selectboard shall also forward a copy of the grievance to the Agricultural Commission or its agent, which shall review and facilitate the resolution of the grievance, and report its recommendations to the Selectboard within an agreed upon time frame. *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 24- To see if the town will vote to add the following new Section to the town's Right-to-Farm by-law:

Severability Clause

If any part of this By-law is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remainder of this By-law. The Town of Richmond hereby declares the provisions of this By-law to be severable.

ARTICLE 25- To see if the town will vote to amend the town by-laws, Chapter VIII, Section 12 by deleting the last two sentences in their entirety and to replace them with the following:

“Numbers, at least three (3”) inches in height, shall be placed in a prominent place on each building or on a suitable support near the main entrance to the property so as to be easily visible from the road in either direction at all times. This Bylaw shall be enforced by the Building Inspector, Fire Chief and the Zoning Enforcement Officer and violations shall be punishable by a fine to start five business days after notification of said violation. The fine shall be five dollars (\$5) per day.” *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 26- To see if the town will vote to amend the town by-laws, Chapter VIII, Section 13(c) by deleting it in its entirety and to replace it with the following:

“It shall be a violation of this bylaw to falsely summon the Fire Department when no fire or medical emergency or similar hazard exists. Third time violations shall receive a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100). Fourth and subsequent violations shall receive a fine of three hundred dollars (\$300).” *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 27- To see if the town will vote to amend the town by-laws, Chapter VIII, Section 13 (d) by striking the word “third” in the first sentence and to replace it with the word “fourth” *(Approved by the voters unanimously)*

ARTICLE 28- To see if the town will vote to withdraw from the Berkshire County Mosquito Control Program. (Citizens petition brought forward by ten registered voters.)
(Approved by the voters)

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 Saturday, May 29, 2010, at 11:00 AM, to bring in votes for the following Town Officers:

- One Selectman for three years
- One member of the Board of Health for three years
- One member of the Board of Health for three years
- One member of the Board of Health for two years
- One member of the School Committee for three years
- One member of the Finance Committee for three years
- One member of the Finance Committee for three years
- One member of the Planning Board for five years
- One Library Trustee for three years
- One Moderator for one year

And the polls may close at 7:00 PM.

And you will serve the warrant by posting up true and attested copies hereof, one at the Richmond Town Hall, one at the Richmond Post Office, one at the Bartlett's Orchard bulletin board and one at the Richmond Shores Civic Association bulletin board, seven days at least before the time of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 7th day of April, 2010.

MARGUERITE J. RAWSON, CHAIRMAN
ALAN B. HANSON
ROGER W. MANZOLINI
BOARD OF SELECTMEN



BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
RICHMOND, MA
PERMIT #3