



The Something to Crow About **RICHMOND ROOSTER**

March 2017

Notes from the Board of Selectmen Summary of Proposed Warrant Articles February 13, 2016

This is a summary explaining several of the proposals we are bringing to you for a vote at Town Meeting on Saturday, March 18, 2017 at 9:00 am at the Vet's Hall. Please come to Town Meeting on March 18 so your vote can count on these and all other warrant articles, including our proposed operating budget, and appropriations relating to proposed additions to Capital Reserve and Expendable Trust Funds and other special projects.

I. Proposed Changes to the Veteran's Tax Credit, the Elderly Tax Exemption, and the Solar Energy and Wind Energy Tax Exemptions

A tax credit directly reduces the amount of a tax bill. A tax exemption reduces the assessed valuation of the property before the tax is calculated. Both forms of tax relief have the effect of shifting the tax burden, from those entitled to the tax credit or tax exemption, to those not entitled. In other words, if the town has a fixed amount it must raise in taxes, then any time the town gives relief to a class of residents (be it a tax credit or a tax exemption), then it will increase the amount of tax that must be apportioned among the rest of the town – those who are not eligible for the tax relief.

A resident wrote to us earlier this year asking why our tax credit for veterans is only \$100, where the statute allows a higher amount and most towns, in fact, do grant a higher amount.

Two other residents called to ask if they were eligible for a property tax exemption based on their age and limited income.

Unrelated, our assessing firm Avitar contacted us to discuss a technical defect in the wording of our tax exemption for installed solar energy systems, and to alert us that solar energy installations would begin to be assessed as a property feature in 2017. Meaning that, if you are a homeowner who is counting on an exemption for your solar installation, you must actively apply

for the exemption by April 15, 2017 AND that the wording on the warrant article that created the exemption should be fixed at this Town Meeting. The same applies to the exemption for wind energy systems, although we know of none that are currently located on property within Richmond.

This prompted the Selectmen to research our system of tax credits and exemptions. As a result, we are recommending some changes to these amounts and terms, effective April 1, 2017 for the 2017 tax year. A majority vote is required to implement these changes.

Recommended Changes

The Veterans Credit

We are recommending that the current tax credit for Veterans be raised from \$100 per year to \$200.

NH statute RSA 72:28 allows a town to establish a tax credit for veterans in an amount between \$50 and \$500, the minimum amount of \$50 being required by law. Richmond increased the credit amount from the \$50 minimum to \$100 in 2003. The median tax credit for Cheshire County towns is \$250. Raising our tax credit to \$200 will bring the amount closer to that which is offered by other towns in Cheshire County.

Changing the amount of the Veteran's Tax Credit from \$100 to \$200 may be expected to have an approximate impact of shifting \$5000 of tax revenue from Richmond Veterans to the rest of the Richmond tax base – based on the number of Richmond Veterans that currently claim the exemption (\$50), and assuming that the same number will be eligible for the increased exemption. A town expenditure of \$5000 can be very roughly estimated to increase the tax rate by slightly less than 5¢ per thousand, or an impact of \$9.00 on a \$200,000 home – although this estimate is very rough.

Eligibility for the Elderly Exemption

Elderly taxpayers are allowed an exemption in assessed valuation of their homestead if certain conditions are met. The exempted amount of valuation varies accord-

ing to the age of the taxpayer. In Richmond, the amount of the exemption is as follows:

<i>Age of taxpayer</i>	<i>Amount of exemption</i>
65-75	\$10,000
75-80	15,000
80+	20,000

Currently the maximum income requirements for eligibility for the exemption are \$13,700 (single taxpayer) \$20,400 (married taxpayer) – meaning that the taxpayer’s annual income cannot exceed these amounts if they are to be eligible for the exemption.

We are recommending that the maximum income requirements be increased to \$20,000 (single taxpayer) \$24,000 (married taxpayer).

Richmond established its exemptions for the elderly in 1983, in the amounts shown and subject to the maximum income requirements of \$13,400 (single) or \$20,400 (married). These income requirements are the minimum allowed under the statute. Income is defined as income from all sources, including social security and pensions, with very few exceptions – only life insurance proceeds, expenses in conducting a business, and proceeds from the sale of assets.

There is also a limit on the amount of assets that the elderly taxpayer can hold. To be eligible for the exemption, in addition to the income requirements, the elderly taxpayer (married or single) cannot hold more than \$35,000 in assets (exclusive of the primary residence). We are not recommending any change to the current asset requirement.

Richmond’s current income amounts that establish eligibility for the elderly exemption are unrealistically low, given the cost of living today as compared to 1983, when they were adopted by Richmond. They are also less than those of neighboring towns – the median income requirement for Cheshire County towns is currently \$22,700 (single) and \$26,400 (married).

We cannot assess the impact of the proposed change in eligibility income on the tax rate. However, if we even assumed arbitrarily that the increase in eligibility might double the number of claimants (currently 6, with a total amount of amount of \$110,000 of assessed valuation subject to exemption, resulting in a tax reduction of approximately \$3,000), the impact would be an additional \$3,000 (the amount of the exemption that is currently claimed by those currently eligible for the exemption). An expenditure of \$3,000 can be estimated very roughly to have an impact of 3¢ per thousand or

\$6.00 on a \$200,000 home.

The Solar Energy and Wind Energy Exemptions

We are recommending that the town modify the Solar and Wind Energy exemptions that were adopted by town vote in 1980, granting an annual property tax exemption in the amount of the total cost of the systems, to establish an exemption for such systems in the amount of the assessed value attributable to the system.

The town adopted the warrants granting tax exemptions for solar energy and wind energy systems in 1980 under NH RSA 72:62 and 72:66, respectively. The amount of the exemption, in each case, set as the amount of the total cost of the system.

Setting the amount of the exemption as the total cost of the system is a problem. This is not a logical amount, and it is difficult to ascertain. First, it is applied every year. Second, the cost of a system generally has gone down over the years, as does its value decrease over time due to the age of the system – why would older systems be given a greater exemption when they generally have less current value? And to establish the total cost of the system, we would need the taxpayer to establish the costs less the amount of income tax or other benefits received when the system was installed. Changing the exempted amount to the assessed value of the system makes more sense.

This is especially important in 2017 – we are doing a town-wide reassessment and, for the first time, solar and wind systems WILL be assessed, and the assessed value of the system, therefore, will be subject to tax. We had never, in prior years, ascribed any value to a system, but this has changed.

If you are a homeowner with a solar or wind system, you will likely see an increase in your assessment in 2017 when we take into account the assessed value of the system if you do not apply for and receive the exemption. The deadline for the application is April 15, to be eligible for the tax exemption or credit in that calendar year tax.

II – Petitioned Warrant Article Regarding Silvio Conte Wildlife Refuge

We received one petitioned warrant article this year regarding the proposed purchase by the Federal Government Fish and Wildlife Service of over 3000 acres in Richmond for the Silvio Conte Wildlife Refuge. If completed, the purchase would result in over 13% of

SAMPLE BALLOT

To vote for a person make an (X) in the box to the right of name

FOR SELECTMAN

For 3 Years

Vote for not more than 1

WILLIAM R DANIELS _____ ☐

KATHRYN D McWHIRK _____ ☐

_____ ☐

FOR PLANNING BOARD

For 3 Years

Vote for not more than 2

LLOYD CONDON _____ ☐

RICHARD P DREW _____ ☐

_____ ☐

_____ ☐

FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEE

For 3 Years

Vote for not more than 1

JERRY MILLS _____ ☐

_____ ☐

FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEE

For 1 Year

Vote for not more than 1

KATHLEEN D WHITHAM _____ ☐

_____ ☐

FOR CEMETERY TRUSTEE

For 3 Years

Vote for not more than 1

JERALD A MERRIFIELD _____ ☐

_____ ☐

FOR SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST

For 5 Years

Vote for not more than 1

KATHLEEN D WHITHAM _____ ☐

_____ ☐

FOR TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS

For 3 Years

Vote for not more than 1

PAMELA R GOODELL _____ ☐

_____ ☐

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Richmond Zoning Ordinance to align with the State of New Hampshire Statute as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to change Article 4: Residential District under 404 Permitted Uses specifically **404.3.2 The Accessory Dwelling Unit may be no larger than 750 sq. feet.** This change will also be referenced in **Article 5: Lakeside District under 501 Uses Permitted.**

YES ☐

NO ☐

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Richmond Zoning Ordinance for clarification as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to clarify **404.3.4 The ADU shall be attached to or within the principal dwelling unit. In order to be considered an attached ADU there must be a common wall between the living space of the principal dwelling unit and the ADU. Detached accessory dwelling units are prohibited.** This change will also be referenced in **Article 5: Lakeside District under 501 Uses Permitted.**

And furthermore under definitions to add **Common Wall: Wall that is common to ADU and the living space of a principal Dwelling Unit.**

YES ☐

NO ☐

Richmond's property (by acre) owned by the Federal Government and, therefore, exempt from property tax. The petitioned warrant article opposes the purchase and makes reference to a NH statute, RSA 121, in stating that the acquisition of land in Richmond by Federal authorities under a plan that contemplates an acquisition of more than 5% of the town, should first be approved by voters at a Town meeting.

II. Changes to the Format of this Year's Town Warrant

Our town has traditionally presented the annual operating budget as approximately 25 separate warrant articles, each requiring a separate vote at Town Meeting. Some departments are grouped together in one warrant article; others are listed separately. It is a format that, although traditional to us, does not conform to the current financial reporting required by the NH Department of Revenue Administration (DRA), and we know of no other town that follows this format – every other town we checked uses one warrant article for the entire operating budget.

To save time and present the budget in a format that conforms to the financial reporting required by the NH DRA, we are presenting the operating budget this year as 5 warrant articles, instead of the 25 articles we have used in prior years. We will still present the back-up budget information by department – voters will be able to see whether an individual department budget increased or decreased, separate from how they are aggregated in the warrant. But the votes will be consolidated into 5 warrant articles. Depending on how this change is received, we would expect to further consolidate the operating budget into one warrant article next year, as is done in most all other towns.

III – Our Review of Town Salaries

The Selectmen have asked town departments to keep salaries flat and have not introduced a cost of living increase over the past five or more years. But we have many dedicated, able, and experienced employees on our staff, and departments do request raises to reward employees for merit, length of service, or increases in responsibility. In 2014, we proposed commissioning a compensation study so we could establish maximum and minimum rates for each position. Such a study, prepared by third-party consultants such as MRI, is expensive, and the town voted against it.

So, what we have done instead, is to conduct an

analysis ourselves, over time, reviewing town positions based on title and responsibility, then researching compensation offered for that position in comparable and neighboring towns. We have obtained data from several sources: the Wage and Benefit Study prepared by the NH Municipal Association; the self-organized study done by several smaller towns in the area in 2015 (we participated in that study), and from phone calls to neighboring towns whose data is not otherwise available.

We use this data to look at our town's pay rate as compared to the comparable town data, to verify whether a current or proposed wage is appropriate. This has resulted in wage raises for certain positions, where warranted, and wage freezes for other employees if they are already being compensated at a level that is higher than that shown by comparable town data.

This has given us a principled method to review salaries and to determine when, and if, a raise is warranted. We document our reasons for approving or denying a raise and go over the data we have collected with the department head or employee requesting the raise.

Town Meeting

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

The Town Election will be at the Veterans Memorial Hall on March 14. The polls will open at 11:00 am and close at 7:00 pm. The Monadnock Regional School District Election will be held at the same time.

If you are unable to come to the polls on Election Day, you can request an absentee ballot. You must meet one of the following conditions in order to receive an absentee ballot:

- Will be absent from the town where the voter is registered to vote;
- Cannot appear in public due to religious reasons;
- Is unable to come to the polls due to a physical disability;
- Or is unable to come to the polls during polling hours because the voter is at work or is in transit to or from work. This includes the care of children and infirm adults, with or without compensation.

In order to obtain an absentee ballot, you must first complete the Application for Official Town and School Absentee Ballots. It is available at the town clerk's office and on the Town of Richmond website, www.richmond.nh.gov. If you return the completed application via email to richmondtownclerk@yahoo.com, please remember that you need to email a scanned copy of the SIGNED and

completed application.

Once you have received and marked your absentee ballot, you may return it by mail or in person. If you, the voter, returns the absentee ballot, you must return the ballot to the town clerk or to the deputy town clerk no later than 5:00 pm on the day before Election Day.

The voter's spouse, parent, sibling or child may now deliver the absentee ballot for the voter. The ballot must be delivered no later than 5:00 pm on Election Day and the qualified person delivering the ballot must provide proof of identification either with a government-issued photo ID or with verification by the town clerk. I recommend, if you are the qualified person returning an absentee ballot for a voter, that you bring a government-issued photo ID. In this way, you are not relying on the town clerk/deputy to remember who you are.

Whether you are the voter or the person returning the absentee ballot for the voter, you must always hand the absentee ballot directly to the town clerk or the deputy town clerk. Do not leave the ballot in any receptacle, on a counter (even the town clerk's counter) or with someone other than the town clerk or deputy town clerk.

The business session of the Town Meeting will commence at 9:00 am on Saturday, March 18 at the Veteran's Memorial Hall. All registered voters attending this meeting will have the opportunity to discuss, amend and vote on the town budget and other business on the warrant. If you are not a registered voter, and you would like to vote at the business session, please register no later than Election Day, March 14. No voter registration activity will occur on March 18. As always, please call 239-6202 if you have any questions or concerns.

Town Meeting

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

- March 13 OPEN from 4-5 pm to accept absentee ballots
- March 14 Town Election Polls open 11 am-7 pm, Veteran's Hall
- March 17 OPEN 3-5 pm to accept applications for recounts of votes cast at Town Election for officers
- March 18 2nd Session of Town Meeting starts at 9:00 am, Veteran's Hall
- March 21 OPEN 3-5 pm to accept applications for recounts on any question printed on the official ballot at Town Election

Richmond Public Library

Wendy O'Brien

The Library will be closed for the week of March 6-13 for floor refinishing. We tentatively plan to reopen for our regular hours on Tuesday, March 14.

Saturday Coffee Hour

Elaine Moriarty and friends are hosting our First Saturday Coffee Hour on Saturday, March 4 from 10:30-11:30. Join us for hot drinks, yummy goodies, and good conversation.

Reading with Sherriff

Our "reading with dogs" program is back! Join Sherriff and his handler Jerry Mills on Saturday, March 18 at 11:00 am. Sherriff offers his gentle listening ears for children just learning to read or who wish to be more confident in their reading. Come by for a story or just a pat. No reservations are needed.

Wednesdays with Wendy

Bring your little ones and come join us for stories, snacks and a craft at 10:00 am on Wednesdays. We also have plenty of time for block and Duplo building (and adult conversation!).

Knitting Circle

Calling all knitters (and those who would like to learn) to our knitting circle on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am. We have a lively group of new and experienced knitters led by Lucy Duchaney. Other hand-crafters are welcome. Richmond Public Library, Route 119, Richmond, NH 03470, 603-239-6164.

February Update

Jim McConnell – State Representative

Cheshire 12 – Richmond and Swanzey

This month has been a busy month in Concord with the House working through the 800 or so bills we're considering this year.

This year I submitted one House Resolution, one House Concurrent Resolution and five bills. Some have already been acted upon.

My House Resolution, which I call the Real Reform Amendment, and which I hope will become the 28th Amendment to the US Constitution, was adopted by the House in a 211 – 75 vote. The Resolution and Frequently Asked Questions can be viewed at the web site I've set up www.realreformamendment.org. I hope the proposal will attract support around the country and that in next year's Federal races candidates will have to offer

their opinions, and quickly conclude, there's only one right answer to the question of where they stand on it.

My House Concurrent Resolution which, unlike my House Resolution, requires Senate concurrence, seeks rescission of any previous New Hampshire calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention. I see Article V Conventions as the riskiest way to amend the US Constitution, as there are no real guidelines for such a Convention, and it's entirely possible that any part of the existing US Constitution could be subject to substantial change. This Resolution has been retained, which means it will be studied over the course of the year with a recommendation to either proceed with the Resolution or not.

All three of my pipeline bills have been heard by the Science, Technology & Energy Committee and are awaiting further deliberation. One deals with eminent domain, one with the Public Utility Commission's responsibilities, and the last bars electric ratepayers from bearing the cost of a high pressure natural gas pipeline's construction.

I have also introduced a bill which would reduce pesticide use where children play. This bill was considered by the Environment & Agriculture Committee which has decided to retain it. They have indicated they will have hearings later in the year to determine how they wish to proceed. I'm pleased with this outcome as the issues are complex and the available time to consider the bill was, with the amount of testimony on all sides of the bill, simply insufficient.

My final bill was to require that social media companies provide a means for subscribers to delete their personal information and close their accounts. While some of these companies make it possible to close accounts, none make it as easy as it should be for someone who is being stalked, had their identity stolen or has come to regret their participation in social media. This bill was, as far as our Legislative Services Depart-

ment could tell, the first of its kind in the nation. Unhappily, the Commerce Committee decided the bill was Inexpedient to Legislate which probably kills the bill.

I can be reached at 903-3878, which is my cell phone. I have decided it is much more efficient to use my cell phone as I'm frequently away from my desk and I'd rather take a call than return one. My personal email is mcc@mindspring.com. Please use my personal email as my legislative email is inundated from both out of state interest groups and individuals and I'd like to make sure that you, my constituents, can reach me when you want to and not get lost in the shuffle.

Things and Thoughts from the District –

Neil Moriarty

THANKS JIM CARNIE FOR YOUR 30-PLUS YEARS OF SERVICE to the town of Richmond on the School Board.

We lost a very special teacher in February. Ms. Nancy Frazier passed away on 02/14/2017. I worked with Nancy for 9 years with America Reads – RIP.

1. Remember to Vote on March 14, Vet's Hall, 11 am to 7:00 pm.

2. The Deliberative Session was a Disaster!

While I thank all who showed up, 27 from Richmond were there, which must be a record for recent history, we still need more voters to attend. The only change to the budget, increases Article One to \$32,746,272, so you the voters have no choice .

Your budget committee recommended \$31,423,301 or \$1,322,371 LESS! Your school tax bill will increase 17.9%, if all articles pass. We have no choice to vote NO on articles One through Six on the school warrant.

2a. Please vote YES on Article Nine. I obtained signatures from every town in the District; freedom of speech is guaranteed in America. Two School Board

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members violated this policy at the Deliberative session.
3. Cost per pupil at Monadnock \$17,776; State average \$14,902. We pay about \$2,874 more than the average!!! (Source: NH Dept. Education, cost per pupil 2015-2016)

4. I am running unopposed for School Board member from Richmond.

5. WE NEED A BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBER!
 We have no candidate for Budget Committee member from Richmond. A write-in campaign would be welcome. Barring a write-in campaign, please see the Selectmen, if you would like to serve. I will help you with the process. Budget development is an important part of the process, we need to be represented on the Budget Committee.

6.Special Education(SPED) I have been invited to the new special education process by Ms. Lisa Mango at Mt. Caesar. For those who do not remember, the current SPED education is being run as a separate class, at least in elementary school; the kids are only in the “regular” classroom for kick-off, 15 minutes at the start of the day, snack time, recess, and lunch.

I have concern on some areas while I am on the School Board:

- What are the kids doing with their computer – only 44 kids to an online course?
- We only have one online text book, and even that is backed up with a hard copy text. Where are we going with online text books, which are cheaper than hard-copy?
- What is the turnover rate for our teachers? Do we have any retention/turnover problem?
- Where are we going with STEM*? Is it only in Gilsum? Is 30 or so students the limit for the elementary schools?
- Where is STEM in the high school and where is it headed?

*STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math. Because it still spells something, you can add ART and get STEAM. I don’t agree that ART is a very good career path for the average student. (This is just my opinion.)

Thank you for reading my article, if you have thoughts, comments, concerns, contact me at 603-239-4031; cmoriarty@ne.rr.com; or 782 Old Homestead Hwy. It may take a little longer to answer you than Jim took, but I will get you the answer.

Monadnock Honor Roll – 2nd Quarter

Neil Moriarty
 Congratulations Students!

Name	Grade	Honors
Cheyenne Burt	7	Honors
Aderyn Daugherty	7	High Honors
Aurora Perry	8	Honors
Caelan Purrington	7	Honors
Gabrielle Schmidt	7	Honors
Bridget VanValzah	7	High Honors
Daniel Heise	11	Honors
Peter Margand	9	Honors
Whitney Maynard	9	High Honors
Madison Pearsall	11	Honors
Cassidy Purrington	9	High Honors
Dominick Thornton	9	Honors
Ashlyn Tomer	12	Honors

Why I Love Our Library

Elaine Moriarty

Walking through the door of the former schoolhouse #6, currently the Richmond Town Library, can lead you to places you might not imagine. It is not just a place to borrow a book.

The main room is where you’ll find our pleasant librarian Wendy O’Brien ready to assist you in all library matters.

The bright Computer Room calls to you to explore topics of your desires.

The Children’s Room has opportunities for story hours, crafts, summer reading, games, and occasional parties.

Currently, a Knitting Club has evolved, thanks to Lucy Duchaney. She will teach children and adults alike. Everyone wishing to share their project(s) is welcome on Wednesday mornings. We would like anyone who wishes to share any craft project to join us and teach others.

On the first Saturday of the month, join us for coffee and homemade goodies (free) along with lighthearted conversation.

Wendy will welcome volunteers anytime, a hour a week will be enough.

I have spent 20 years volunteering at the library – mainly with children’s programs; it is very rewarding. “You can make a difference.” Hope to see you there.

**State of New Hampshire
Monadnock Regional School District
Warrant for 2017-2018**

The polls will be open to voters on March 14, 2017, 11am – 7pm at the Veterans Hall, Richmond, NH.

Article One: Shall the Monadnock Regional School District raise and appropriate in the operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles, which will be voted on separately, totaling \$32,746,272 (\$970,000 is required for federal grants and nutrition grants that are funded by separate State and Federal revenues)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget will be \$32,746,272 which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Monadnock Regional School District by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with Revised Statutes Annotated (RSA) 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. The School Board does not support this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. *Majority vote required.*

Article Two: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,400,000 for renovations, including asbestos abatement and other health and safety upgrades at the Mount Caesar Elementary School. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32:3 VI. This will be a non-lapsing warrant article per RSA 32:7 and will not lapse until the maintenance projects are complete or June 30, 2020, whichever is earlier. The School Board does not support this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. *Majority vote required.*

Article Three: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$193,000 for the continued asbestos abatement for flooring at the Middle/High School and Mt. Caesar and replacing boilers at Emerson. This is a Special Warrant Article in accordance with RSA 32:3 VI. This will be a non-lapsing warrant article per RSA 32:7 and will not lapse until the maintenance projects are complete or June 30, 2020, whichever is earlier. The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. *Majority vote required.*

Article Four: Shall the Monadnock Regional School District raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 to be added to the 2012 Before-and-After School Expendable Trust Fund created under Article #8 of the 2012-2013

Warrant? The School Board supports this article. The Budget Committee supports this article. *Majority vote required.*

Article Five: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from the June 30, 2017 fund balance available for transfer on July 1st, 2017. No new amount to be raised from taxation. The School Board supports this article. **The Budget Committee supports/does not support this article.** *Majority vote required.*

Article Six: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the three-year Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Monadnock Regional School Board and the Monadnock District Education Association (MDEA) for the following increases in wages and benefits at the current staffing levels.

The estimated increase in the costs for wages and benefits under the collective bargaining agreement are as follows:

Year	Estimated Increase:
2017-18	\$223,301 Salaries (2.64% increase)
\$ -80,000	Removal of the Sixth Class Stipend
\$ 3,000	Increase in stipend for teaching two grades
\$ 25,000	Retiree Insurance for two years each up to 5 retirees
\$151,447	Insurance (Guaranteed Maximum Rate increase of 11.3%)
\$ 6,500	Stipend for overnight trips
\$ 8,150	Additional costs for professional development
\$ 10,000	Increase for tuition reimbursement
\$ 6,380	Increase for Unused leave days paid out at \$20.00 per day

YOUR AD HERE

**Call 239-6696 or
email therichmondrooster@yahoo.com**

\$ 600 Increase in stipend for class coverage/substitute
 \$ 66,084 Wage-driven benefits (Social Security, NHRS, etc.)
\$420,462 Salaries and Benefits

2018-19 \$206,005 Salaries (2.38% increase)
 \$150,723 Insurance (Calculated using a 7% increase)
 \$ 25,000 Retiree Insurance for two years each up to 5 retirees
 \$51,707 Wage-driven benefits (Social Security, NHRS, etc.)
 \$433,435 Salaries and Benefits

2019-20 \$239,188 Salaries (2.7% increase)
 \$158,764 Insurance (Calculated using a 7% increase)
 \$ 60,036 Wage-driven benefits (Social Security, NHRS, etc.)
 \$457,988 Salaries and Benefits

And further, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$420,462 for the 2017-18 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional cost attributable to the increase in wages and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the 2016-17 year. The School Board supports this appropriation. The Budget Committee does not support this appropriation. *Majority vote required.*

Article Seven: Shall the Monadnock Regional School District receive and approve the reports of the agents, auditors, committees and officers chosen as printed and distributed in the Annual Report? *Majority vote required.*

Article Eight: To listen to opinions of a purely advisory nature with regards to the conduct of school affairs for the ensuing year. *Majority vote required.*

Article Nine: Whereas the current School Board Policy BCA item #10 reads: “when the Board has made a final decision, members of the Board should take no private action that will compromise the Board or administration; and refrain from private actions which undermine or compromise official Board action.”

Will the voters of Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD) vote to have the MRSD School Board delete BCA item #10 – to provide freedom of speech as provided by the Bill of Rights – Amendment One, in our United States Constitution? *Majority vote required.* By Petition.

By the Monadnock Regional School Board: Given under our hands and seal this 4th day of February, 2017
 Monadnock Regional School Board.

QUOTABLE QUOTE

Terri O’Rorke

The fun begins where the pavement ends.

—author unknown

Here comes another mud season, Richmond!

Candidates for Selectman

William (Bill) Daniels

To the voters of the Town of Richmond. I respectfully request your vote for the office of Selectman in our



town. I have lived in town for 25 years and in the area for 63. My main concern is the welfare of our town and its residents. I am well-versed in the 3 major concerns of town government, highway, fire, and police. I was

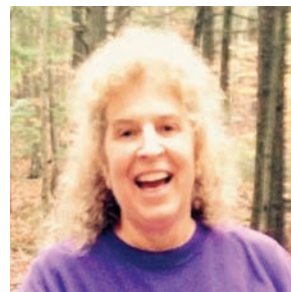
in law enforcement for 15 years, on a volunteer fire department for 6 years, and have been involved with road construction for 14 years. I believe my knowledge of the aforementioned areas will lend well to the office of the Selectmen. I have no private agenda, nor do I have an ax to grind, as I said before, my only concern is the welfare of our town. My philosophy is simple, the best possible service at the best price, all while respecting the rights of the property owner. Anyone who would like to ask me my position on any of their concerns may contact me at 209-6011.

Respectfully submitted

William (Bill) Daniels

Kathryn McWhirk

Hello! I am Kathryn McWhirk, and I am running for re-election to the Richmond Board of Selectmen.



For those Richmond residents who do not know who I am, let me introduce myself. My family and I moved to Richmond on December 1, 1985. Through the years I have

served on the Richmond Recreation Committee, Beach Committee, Board of Selectmen (1990), and the Zoning

Board of Adjustment, and recently I have been serving as a Selectman, and have been for the past 3+ years. In addition, I am one of the original staff who began *The Richmond Rooster*. I was responsible for soliciting advertisers.

Over the past 3 years, I have served as the Selectmen's representative to the Hazard Mitigation Program in conjunction with the Southwestern Regional Planning Commission, and the Solid Waste Management Committee.

I am fiscally responsible and bring a practical, common sense perspective to the decision-making process. Most importantly, I always have the best interest of the hard working taxpayer of Richmond in mind. Over the last 3 years I have learned a great deal, and I am flattered by those who encouraged me to run again.

I would be honored to serve as your Selectman for the next 3 years, and ask for your vote on March 14, 2017.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kathryn McWhirk

Candidate for Planning Board

Richard Drew



My name is Richard P. Drew and I am a candidate for a three-year term to the Richmond Planning Board. I believe I am qualified for this position because I have 15 years experience on the Board, many of those as the Chairman. I also bring the knowledge and experience of being a Licensed Land Surveyor to the position.

I look forward to seeing you at the polls in March and hope that you will consider me for this important position.

Planning and Zoning

Kim Mattson

In March, the Planning Board has included two Zoning changes on the ballot under Article 4, more specifically 404.3.2 and 404.3.4. We are asking for your support to keep Richmond Zoning current with the State Statute.

At present, the Richmond Zoning reads: 404.3.2 The Accessory Dwelling Unit may be no larger than 600 square feet. The State of New Hampshire has changed the State RSA to a maximum of 750 sq. ft prompting all

towns to conform to the State RSA. The proposed change on the ballot would read: 404.3.2 The Accessory Dwelling Unit may be no larger than 750 sq. ft.

The second amendment will clarify what is meant by attached. At present, the Richmond Zoning reads: 404.3.4. The accessory dwelling unit must be located in the primary structure or in an addition to the primary structure. For clarity the proposed ballot would read: 404.3.4: The ADU shall be attached to or within the principal dwelling unit. In order to be considered an attached ADU, there must be a common wall between the living space of the Principal Dwelling Unit and the ADU. Detached accessory dwelling units are prohibited.

Furthermore, to define the word "common wall": Common wall – Wall that is common to the ADU and the living space of a Principal Dwelling Unit.

Changes will also be reflected in Article 5: Lakeside District under 501 Permitted Uses. This is a State requirement to allow the ADU in all Zoning Districts.

The Planning Board thanks you for your continued support to keep our Town current with the State of New Hampshire.

LOCAL ARTISANS

Mad Bear Forge & Homestead

John Boccalini

The first response to our *Rooster* Facebook – request looking for local artisans – comes from a relatively new business in Richmond.

It is the *Mad Bear Forge and Homestead*. The business is a combination of the two distinct talents of Mallary and Seth Reece, with the assistance of their daughter, Mila in the making of a variety of items.





These items include:

- A diverse selection of hand-forged items including utensils, jewelry, knives, custom iron pieces, etc.
- Large selection of bath bombs in a variety of scents, shapes and colors
- An assortment of jams and jellies



Visit the *Mad Bear Forge and Homestead* Facebook page to see the selections and watch how things are produced.

They sell their items a variety of ways, including:

- Etsy, see the work we do at our Etsy shop here: www.etsy.com/shop/MadBearForgeHome
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/MadBearForgeAndHomestead/
- Locally (we are in “Cuts on Main” in Winchester)

Ode to the Typographical Error

Anonymous, Submitted by Judith Graves

The typographical error is a slippery thing and sly;
 You can hunt till you are dizzy, but it somehow will get by.
 'Till the forms are on the press, it is strange how still it keeps.
 It shrinks down in a corner, and it never stirs or peeps –
 That typographical error, too small for human eyes –
 'Till the ink is on the paper, when it grows to mountain size.
 The boss, he stares with horror, then he grabs his hair and groans;
 The copyreader drops his head upon his hands and moans.
 The remainder of the issue may be clean as clean can be,
 But the typographical error is the only thing you see.

RCUMC

Pastor Arnie Johnson

Greetings to all! The Richmond Community UMC celebrated Super Bowl Sunday in February with our own “Soupier Bowl” Sunday. Attendees brought cans of nutritious soups for our Food Pantry located in the Town Hall. It’s our way to insure that our Pantry continues to be fully stocked for those who are less fortunate than we are.

Our thanks to Shawn Skahan and Rusty Young for standing in for Pastor Arnie when he and his wife took a break in February. Their guest ministries were certainly appreciated by those in attendance.

Coming on March 5 is a Lenten Healing Service led by Rev. Kathleene Card with imposition of ashes and the celebration of Holy Communion with Pastor Arnie assisting. Rev. Card is also leading a Lenten Bible Study which will be held online on the Internet.

Everyone is welcome to participate. You do not need to be a member of the Richmond Church or be a Methodist. It will be a wonderful learning experience for everyone and will consist of seven weeks of study focusing on the events during the last few days of Jesus’ life. If there are any who would like to participate, and for more information or to sign up, please contact Rev. Kathleene Card at kathleenecard@gmail.com. Everyone is invited to attend our Sunday Services at 9 am at 11 Fitzwilliam Rd. east of the Four Corners on Route 119. Just look for the Old Brick Church! All are welcome! Come and be blessed!

Weekly Event

Paid for by Ben Tilton

The Cheshire County Democratic Committee will be meeting on Friday afternoons at Chili’s Restaurant, 4 Ash Brook Road, Keene, NH 03431 at noon.

These events are open to the public. Drop by if you can for lunch. We discuss local politics and strategy during our meal and then collect a few bucks afterward that goes toward the campaigns of all Primary-winning candidates for the 2018 mid-term election cycle.

To receive notifications/cancellation information, contact Miguel Picanco at 603-903-3384 or by email FridayLunchBunch@CheshireDemocrats.org.

Richmond Winter Event

Richmond Parks and Recreation Commission
 There were numerous local families and friends taking



part in the Richmond Winter Event. Approximately 40 neighbors attended the celebration on Saturday, January 21 behind the fire station. The weather was incredible, with the warm sun streaming down. It was a great day for hot chocolate and socializing outdoors! Despite the small amount of snow, a couple of snowmen were constructed and decorated with care. To everyone's surprise, the hit of the event was a large snowball fight had among kids and adults alike. There was an amazing, mouthwatering hot chocolate bar, complete with white chocolate chips, peanut butter chips, butterscotch chips, mints, rainbow sprinkles, mini marshmallows, and whipped cream! There were steamed hot dogs, as well as hot dogs you could roast yourself over an open fire. Everyone enjoyed s'mores and roasted marshmallows as well! If that wasn't enough, there were delicious chocolate chip cookies and donuts to munch on. Everyone left with full bellies, wet clothes and mittens, and a warm heart (even if they did have frozen little fingers). Thank you to everyone who participated, and to all the Parks and Recreation members who made the event a wonderful success! Keep an eye out for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt in April.

Richmond Egg Hunt

Karen Daugherty

Spring is near! Please meet at the Richmond Pavilion, behind the Fire Station, on Saturday April 1, at 11am sharp! We will have an egg hunt, hot chocolate, and donuts. Feel free to bring your own Easter basket or we will provide some shopping bags. Brought to you by

the Richmond Parks and Recreation Commission.
Happy Easter!

Thank You!

Pat Tonweber

My heart is filled with gratitude for the many offers of help and support from this compassionate community, following the sudden passing of my husband, Joe. Many of you have aided with shopping, plowing, shoveling, wood gathering, roof raking, errands and keeping various appointments. Thank you for all you do to inspire me to be a better neighbor. Most sincerely.

Richmond Recipe Book

Jeani Eismont

I would like to compile a recipe book of old, historic, and favorite recipes from all the residents of this wonderful town. If each one of you has one or more of your favorites, or if you have sources for old recipes that were used in Richmond or New Hampshire, please send them to me at jeani@eismont.com. We can use this as a fundraiser for the 4-Corners development.

RICHMOND EGG HUNT

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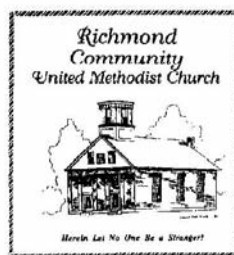
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Danny Wahl

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Growing up at the 4-Corners in Richmond, that our parents owned, gave us the life long pleasure of knowing what a small town is all about. We have very fond memories of riding our bikes up and down Rte. 32 & 119, summers at the town beach, skating on the water hole, checking a book out at our little library and looking forward to the annual BBQ. It's a joy to share those special memories when we market your home and welcome someone new to town. Fred Blais, Broker & Ruth Blais Thompson, Licensed Agent



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Town Business Hours

105 Old Homestead Highway, Richmond NH 03470

Board of Selectmen:

Chris Daugherty, Carol Jameson, Kathy McWhirk

Mon. 9 AM – 12 PM, 3 – 7 PM, 5:30 – 7 PM for business

7 PM – ? for public concerns)

Tues. 9-12 (Selectmen meet first Tuesday ONLY)

Wed. 9 AM – 1 PM, Thurs. 9 AM – 1 PM (unless posted)

Town Administrator: Heidi Wood

Assistant Town Administrator: Susan Harrington

Town Clerk: Annette Tokunaga

Deputy Town Clerk: Jennifer S. Thompson

Mon. 9 AM – 12 NOON, 1 – 4 PM, 6 – 8 PM

Wed. 9 AM – NOON, 1 – 5 PM, Thurs. 9 AM – 12 NOON

Tax Collector: Steve Boscarino

Deputy Tax Collector: Kerry A. Boscarino

Mon. 6 PM – 8 PM, Wed. 9 AM – 12 NOON

Tues. 2 PM – 5 PM in the week taxes are due

Planning Board:

Meetings held at Veterans Hall.

1st Tues. of the month – 7:30 PM

and 3rd Tues. if needed

Transfer Station and Recycling Facility: 239-8136

Tues. 8 AM – 4 PM, Thurs. 8 AM – 7 PM

Sat. 8 AM – 5 PM

Town Library: Wendy O'Brien, Librarian, 239-6164.

Tues. 3 PM – 7 PM, Wed. 9 AM – 12 NOON

Thurs. 3 PM – 7 PM, Sat. 10 AM – 2 PM

Police (Non Emergency): 239-6007

Fire/Rescue (Non Emergency): 239-4466

Fire Warden: Ed Atkins, 392-2027

Selectmen – 239-4232

Town Clerk – 239-6202

Tax Collector – 239-6106

Road Agent: Mark Beal – 903-2184

Visit town on-line: <http://richmond.nh.gov>