

WARNING  
2025 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Richford, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Richford Town Hall in said Town March 3rd, 2025, at 6:00 PM to transact the following business,

All Articles pertaining to the election of officers, charter changes and monetary issues relating to expenditures will be voted on by Australian Ballot at the Richford Town Hall on March 4th, 2025, between the hours of 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon and 7:00 o'clock in the afternoon, at which time the polls will close.

ARTICLE 1. To hear and act upon the reports of the officers of the Town for the past year.

ARTICLE 2. To elect the following officers:

- a. A Moderator for the ensuing Year
- b. One Selectmen for the term of two (2) years
- c. One Selectmen for the term of three (3) years
- d. One Lister for the term of three (3) years
- e. One Lister for the term of three (3) years one (1) year remaining
- f. A First Constable for a term of one (1) year
- g. Three Planning Commission members for a term of three (3) years
- h. One planning commission member three (3) year term two (2) years remaining
- i. Three Directors of the Richford Community Fund Inc for a term of three (3) years

ARTICLE 3. Shall the Town pay it's 2025 municipal taxes and it's 2025-2026 education taxes to the Town Treasurer in two equal installments with the first due on or before August 10, 2025, and the second due on or before October 10, 2025?

ARTICLE 4. Shall the Town authorize and empower the Selectmen to borrow money on the credit of the Town by note, Town order, or otherwise in a sum sufficient to meet the current expenses of the Town prior to the collection of its taxes and to meet any deficit of the town if the expenditures shall exceed the estimated revenues?

ARTICLE 5. Shall the Town appropriate the following sums of money and if so voted, to raise money on the Grand List?

- A. \$4,846.00 to the VNA & Hospice of Southwest Region
- B. \$150.00 to Green Up Vermont?
- C. \$2,000.00 to the Richford Beautification/Image Committee?
- D. \$500.00 to the Missisquoi River Basin Association?
- E. \$500.00 to the Richford Conservation Commission?
- F. \$2,500.00 to the Richford Economic Advancement Corporation (REAC)?
- G. \$2,000.00 to the Green Mountain Transportation Agency?
- H. \$200.00 to the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force?
- I. \$500.00 to the VT Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired?
- J. \$1,000.00 to Operation Happiness?

ARTICLE 6. Shall the Town vote the proposed 2025 budget in the amount of \$3,522,396.56 to meet the

expenses and liabilities of the Town and authorize the Selectmen to set a tax rate sufficient to provide for the same?

ARTICLE 7. Shall the voters approve the following amendment to Section 106 of the Town of Richford Charter? (Strikethrough represents a deletion, and underline represents an addition)

#### **§ 106. Trash collection**

Trash collection in the former Village area shall be considered as a special services district for those residing therein. The Selectboard shall, in its sole discretion, determine whether to provide such service and whether to leave or enter into a contract for such service. ~~Voters residing in the special services district may, by a majority vote of those present and voting at a duly warned meeting, authorize the Selectboard to enter into a contract for such service.~~ The Selectboard shall set a rate for such service sufficient to cover the expense of the contract and shall collect such rate from those property owners so served. The rates for service shall be collected in the same manner as taxes and shall constitute a lien on the property. In the case of delinquencies, service may be halted, and delinquencies may be collected in the same manner as delinquent taxes.

ARTICLE 8. Shall the voters approve the following amendment to Section 208 of the Town of Richford Charter? (Strikethrough represents a deletion, and underline represents an addition)

#### **§ 208. Special districts**

(c) All costs required to support a given special service shall be paid for by the taxpayers receiving said service in such manner as the Selectboard may determine. —If the costs are to be paid by a tax on the grand list in the special service district involved, such tax Said costs shall be paid and collected in the same manner as other taxes and such cost tax assessed on any part of the grand list shall be a lien thereon. All funds of any special services shall be kept in a special fund, no part of which may be used for any other purpose.

ARTICLE 9. Shall the voters approve the following amendment to Section 401 of the Town of Richford Charter? (Strikethrough represents a deletion, and underline represents an addition)

#### **§ 401. Fire prevention**

For the prevention and control of fires, the Town of Richford may function with a volunteer fire department. Annually, the Selectboard shall appoint a fire chief, 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant chief, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant chief, ~~based on recommendations from the Firefighters' Association, three fire wardens.~~ These appointments shall be made at the annual Selectboard reorganizational meeting in March. within 30 days of the day the Selectboard receives the Association's recommendations. Annually, the fire wardens shall choose the Chief and other officers of the volunteer fire department. (Added 1997, No. M-11 (Adj. Sess.), § 2, eff. Jan. 1, 1999.)

ARTICLE 10. Shall the voters approve the following amendment to Section 402 of the Town of Richford Charter? (Strikethrough represents a deletion, and underline represents an addition)

#### **§ 402. Ambulance service**

- (a) ~~(a)~~ The Town of Richford Selectboard may provide either contract for or establish an ambulance service for the Town, at the discretion of the Selectboard.
- (b) ~~If so provided~~ If established, the Richford Ambulance Service which shall be owned and operated by the Town of Richford under the supervision of the Selectboard, ~~with the advice of an Ambulance Committee appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Selectboard.~~

(c) ~~(b)~~ If established, ~~t~~The Richford Ambulance Service shall operate in accordance with the Richford Ambulance Service bylaws, policies, and procedures. (Added 1997, No. M-11 (Adj. Sess.), § 2, eff. Jan. 1, 1999.)

**ARTICLE 11.** Shall the voters approve the following amendments to the Town of Richford Charter deleting Sections 101, 102, 103, 105, 107, 108, and 204, and amending Sections 104 and 206 to remove irrelevant material. (Strikethrough represents a deletion, and underline represents an addition)

**§ 101. Merger of the Village and Town of Richford**

~~Effective as of midnight at the end of December 31, 1998, the Village of Richford, as constituted by 1878 Acts and Resolves No. 202, as amended, shall merge with and into the Town of Richford, within its present geographic limits, as a single municipal corporation under the name of the Town of Richford, and the Village of Richford shall, except as hereinafter specifically provided, cease to exist as a political entity or body corporate and its charter shall be abolished. (Added 1997, No. M-11 (Adj. Sess.), § 2, eff. Jan. 1, 1999.)~~

**§ 102. Assets transferred and liabilities assumed**

~~(a) Upon the effective merger date, all assets of whatever kind, nature, and description, including lands; easements; rights and interests in lands; buildings and other improvements; vehicles, equipment, and other personal property; funds; grants; assessed but uncollected taxes and charges, including water and sewer rents and charges, together with the lien rights and enforcement powers of the Village of Richford therefore; monies; rights, claims, actions, and contracts; rights of action in legal or administrative proceedings; insurance policies; and documents and records owned, claimed, or held by the Village of Richford shall become vested in and become assets owned by the Town of Richford without any further act, deed, or instrument being necessary.~~

~~(b) Any and all property held in trust by the trustees of the Village of Richford or any officer thereof shall become vested in the Selectboard of the Town of Richford and its successors, or in the respective officer of said Town and his or her successor, as the case may be, and shall continue to be held in trust for the same uses as before the merger, all without any further act, deed, or instrument being necessary.~~

~~(c) Upon the effective merger date, the Town of Richford shall assume and be obligated to pay or otherwise perform each and every lawful obligation, debt, claim, bonded indebtedness, and other liability of the Village of Richford without any further act, deed, or instrument being necessary.~~

~~(d) Prior to the effective merger date, the officers of the Village of Richford shall settle, so far as possible, the financial affairs of the Village of Richford and, on said date, turn over to the proper officers of the Town of Richford all records, books, documents, and property of the Village of Richford. (Added 1997, No. M-11 (Adj. Sess.), § 2, eff. Jan. 1, 1999.)~~

**§ 103. Finances**

On the effective merger date:

~~(1) the funds and other assets of the Village of Richford for its General Fund, along with its corresponding liabilities, shall become those of the Town of Richford for its General Fund;~~

~~(2) the funds and other assets of the Village of Richford for its Highway Account, along with its corresponding liabilities, shall become those of the Town of Richford for its Highway Account;~~

~~(3) the funds and other assets of the Village of Richford for its Water Department, along with its corresponding liabilities, shall become those of the Town of Richford for its Water Department;~~  
~~(4) the funds and other assets of the Village of Richford for its Sewer Department, along with its corresponding liabilities, shall become those of the Town of Richford for its Sewer Department; and~~  
~~(5) all of the other funds, assets, and liabilities of the Village of Richford, except as herein specifically provided shall become those of the Town of Richford as part of its General Fund and of its general assets and liabilities. (Added 1997, No. M-11 (Adj. Sess.), § 2, eff. Jan. 1, 1999.)~~

#### **§ 104. Water and sewer rates**

~~(a) All water and sewer rates of the Village of Richford in effect at the time of merger shall continue in effect until changed by the water commissioners or sewer commissioners of the Town of Richford. The Selectboard shall be the water and sewer commissioners. All costs of the Water and Sewer Departments shall be assessed against the properties served by said Departments.~~

~~(b) Annual water and/or sewer rates shall be set at a rate sufficient to cover annual expenditures, temporary indebtedness, and the amortizing of bonded indebtedness and interest. (Added 1997, No. M-11 (Adj. Sess.), § 2, eff. Jan. 1, 1999.)~~

#### **§ 105. Police protection**

~~(a) Police protection in the former Village area shall be considered a special services district for those residing therein, provided that boundaries may be altered as provided in section 208 of the charter. Voters residing in the special services district may determine by a majority vote of those present and voting at a duly warned meeting the extent of services desired. The Selectboard shall assess a tax based on the grand list of the area served for each owner's share of the listed value of his or her property to cover the costs for the entire area.~~  
~~(b) If and when the Town desires police protection for the entire Town, the special services district will cease to exist for this purpose and the entire cost of police protection will become part of the General Fund budget expense of the Town. (Added 1997, No. M-11 (Adj. Sess.), § 2, eff. Jan. 1, 1999.)~~

#### **§ 107. Existing ordinances**

~~(a) The Village zoning and flood hazard regulations, as amended, are hereby incorporated into the zoning ordinance of the Town of Richford for the purpose of defining a Village district within said Town ordinance and establishing area, density, use, building, and like requirements.~~  
~~(b) Whenever a power is granted by any such rule, ordinance, regulation, or bylaw to an officer of the Village of Richford, such power is conferred upon the appropriate officer of the Town of Richford. (Added 1997, No. M-11 (Adj. Sess.), § 2, eff. Jan. 1, 1999.)~~

#### **§ 108. Election of Selectboard**

~~(a) Members of the Selectboard in office at the date of the adoption of the merger shall continue in office until the end of their respective terms.~~  
~~(b) The four Village trustees whose terms do not expire in 1998 shall remain on the new Board until the election at Town meeting in 1999, at which time the Board shall revert to the statutory limit. (Added 1997, No. M-11 (Adj. Sess.), § 2, eff. Jan. 1, 1999.)~~

#### **§ 204. Town and School District officers**

~~The Clerk, Treasurer, and auditors of the Town of Richford shall perform those duties imposed upon the Clerk, Treasurer, and auditors of the Town of Richford School District by the general laws of the State of Vermont and this charter. (Added 1997, No. M-11 (Adj. Sess.), § 2, eff. Jan. 1, 1999.)~~

**§ 206. Town meeting**

(a) Provisions of the laws of the State of Vermont relating to voter qualification, warnings, methods of voting, the duties of the Town officers at Town meetings and elections, and all other particulars relating to preparation for, conduct, and management of Town meetings and elections shall, so far as they may be applicable, govern all municipal elections and all annual and special Town ~~and School District~~ meetings, except as otherwise specifically provided in this charter.

(b) All articles pertaining to the election of officers and monetary issues relating to expenditures warned for annual or special Town ~~or School District~~ meetings shall be voted by Australian ballot, except as otherwise specifically provided in this charter. (Added 1997, No. M-11 (Adj. Sess.), § 2, eff. Jan. 1, 1999.)

**ARTICLE 12.** Shall the voters establish a reserve fund to be called the Fire Equipment Reserve Fund to be used for purchase of equipment for use by the Fire Department, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2804?

**ARTICLE 13.** Shall the voters deposit any unused funds from the 2025 Fire Department Expense Budget to fund the Fire Equipment Reserve Fund, if such a fund is approved by voters?

**ARTICLE 14.** Shall the voters establish a reserve fund to be called the EMS Vehicle Reserve Fund to be used for purchase of emergency vehicles, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2804?

**ARTICLE 15.** Shall the voters deposit \$30,000 in surplus funds to fund the EMS Vehicle Reserve Fund, if such a fund is approved by voters?

**ARTICLE 16.** to transact any other proper business.

Dated at Richford, Vermont this 30th day of January 2025.

Town of Richford  
Board of Selectmen,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wallace Steinhour, Chair

  
Andrew Pond

  
Sherry Paquette

  
Alan Fletcher

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Kristin Sheperd