

EXPLANATIONS
2018 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

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 2019 budget, including the operation of the sewer system, the ambulance, and several proposed capital improvements, is \$6,964,449, or a decrease of -0.2%. The Selectmen and the Finance Committee continue to present to you a balanced budget that does not rely on the use of reserves to fund operational costs while providing the services residents expect from town government. Highlights of this year's budget include funding for the replacement of our Town Highway storage building, continued funding of the OPEB trust fund, continued repairs to our Town Hall, an appropriation to replace the School's playground surface and the installation of solar powered radar speed signs in the school zone, just to name a few. This year's budget includes a 3% salary increase for all non-school employees as well as increases in employee benefit costs and our pension assessment. However, once again you will see that many of our non-salary related line items have been level funded (or even reduced in some cases) from their Fiscal Year 2018 levels. The School Committee's Fiscal Year 2019 request from the town budget is \$3,329,279, an increase of \$136,313, or 4.3% over total school appropriations in Fiscal Year 2018.

The proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Sewer Budget is \$225,000, which is level-funded from Fiscal Year 2018. This budget funds the costs of operating the system as well as debt payment associated with the system's design and construction. 100% of these costs are borne by the users of the system.

The article for the school bond payment (\$146,400) continues to reflect the reduced payment resulting from the refinancing of the school debt. This year's payment represents the eighth payment in the ten-year repayment schedule for the \$1.2 million borrowed to retire older bonds.

The breakdown of the revenues that will be required to meet the proposed expenditures for Fiscal Year 2019 are as follows:

	<u>Source of Revenue</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Revenue</u>
Real and Personal Property Taxes (Tax Levy)	\$5,102,225	73%
Non-Property Tax (State Aid, Local Receipts, Other)	\$1,862,224	27%

Total **\$6,964,449** **100%**

Again this year, Town Meeting consideration of the warrant articles will be done using the “consent calendar” approach. 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 four articles on the same motion. In addition, in order to save time at the town meeting, the Moderator will not read all of the 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- Revolving Funds

This article establishes revolving funds that receive certain revenues and it authorizes expenditure of these funds without further appropriation. Revisions to last year’s revolving fund article are included in Article 2, and an updated chart is provided.

Article 3- Revolving Fund Limits

This article establishes the limits of each revolving fund identified in Article 2.

Article 4- Transportation Bond

This is a standard article allowing the Town to spend a state grant for road construction and repair. The Town's provisional amount for fiscal year 2019 is \$165,547.

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 Fiscal Year 2018.

2. Assessors Expenses: \$18,700- This account pays for the Assessors' office supplies, map updating, contracted services, software licenses, and other expenses. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.
3. Assessor Contracted Services: \$38,200- This account pays for the contract between the Town and Regional Resource Group (a private contractor), for the Assessing services it provides to the Town. This is year two of a three-year contract.
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 Fiscal Year 2018.
5. Moderator Salary: \$500- The Moderator is entitled to a \$500 salary in FY19.
6. Selectmen Salaries: \$5,250- These are the annual salaries of the Selectmen at \$1,750 per Selectman. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.
7. Selectmen Expenses: \$4,500- This account pays for meetings, mileage, trainings, dues, and other expenses of the Selectmen. This line was increased by \$2,500 to cover the cost of attendance at the Massachusetts Municipal Conference in Boston held each January.
8. Town Clerk Salary: \$21,528- This is the base annual salary of the Town Clerk, who is the town's official record keeper and license issuer. This line was increased due to a position reorganization at Town Hall. The previous Town Clerk salary was funded from multiple lines, and no increase in hours is being requested.
9. Town Clerk Expenses \$8,670- This pays for mileage, dues and other Town Clerk expenses. This line was increased by \$6,170 this year to fund the purchase of Town Clerk software, electronic poll pads, and to cover the additional costs associated with 3 elections in the coming year.
10. Treasurer Salary: \$55,167- This is the base annual salary of the contracted 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 figure includes a 3% increase.
11. Treasurer's Expenses: \$2,500- This account pays for meetings, conferences, mileage and other expenses of the Treasurer. This account was increased by \$200 for Fiscal Year 2019.
12. Town Accountant Salary: \$52,850- 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 files regular reports with the Department of Revenue. This position was increased to full-time in FY18 during a position reorganization at Town Hall.
13. Town Accountant Expenses: \$1,500- This account pays for training, meetings, mileage, and

other expenses of the Town Accountant. It was increased by \$550 for FY19.

14. Tax Collector Salary: \$15,450- This is the annual salary of the Tax Collector, who collects all real and personal property, motor vehicle excise taxes and sewer fees. This salary line was reduced by \$742 from Fiscal Year 2018.

15. Tax Collector Assistant Salary: \$4,000- This is the base salary for the Assistant to the Tax Collector, who assists the Tax Collector with some of the basic functions of the collector's office including data base management, and the collection of taxes. This salary line was reduced by \$759 from Fiscal Year 2018.

16. Tax Collector Expenses: \$15,200- This is for postage, stationery, training, mileage, and other costs of the Tax Collector. It has been increased by \$1,200 this year to include the cost of our Collector software licensing and support (including Sewer Betterments).

17. Administrative Assistant: \$16,130- This is the annual salary of the Administrative Assistant, who answers the phones at Town Hall, assists residents, and serves as general clerical staff. This position eliminated the Town Secretary position and reduced this account by \$12,819 during a position re-organization at Town Hall in Fiscal Year 2018.

18. Town Counsel: \$17,500- This amount is used for Town Counsel and Special Town Counsel services, who advise and defend the town in legal matters. This line has been increased by \$2500 this year to more accurately reflect the annual cost of legal counsel.

19. Town Report: \$7,500- This is the cost of printing the annual town report. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.

20. Town Hall: \$25,000- This account pays for utilities, routine maintenance, cleaning, septic pumping, and other goods and services at the Town Hall. This account was increased by \$4,000 from Fiscal Year 2018 to more accurately reflect the cost of operating our Town Hall and pumping our new septic tanks on a regular basis.

21. Elections and Board of Registrars: \$6,600- This account pays for the expenses involved in conducting elections, registering voters, and maintaining the street list. This account was increased by \$200 from Fiscal Year 2018 to help cover the cost of a third election in the coming year.

22. Town Administrator/Assistant Town Clerk Salary: \$76,400- This is the annual base salary of the Town Administrator, who oversees the day-to-day operations at Town Hall, supervises Town Hall and Sewer personnel, serves as the Harbormaster, the Sewer Administrative Officer, and the Assistant Town Clerk. Work related to the oversight of sewer operations is compensated from the sewer enterprise budget. This is a contracted position and reflects a \$5,000 increase over last year's appropriation.

23. Town Administrator Expenses: \$2,200- This account pays for meetings, conferences, mileage and other expenses of the Town Administrator. This account has been increased by \$200 to more accurately reflect the expenses of the Town Administrator.
24. Conservation Commission: \$2,500- This account pays for meetings, conferences, mileage, supplies and other expenses of the Conservation Commission. This account has been increased by \$500 to cover the cost of new/newer member training/certifications, updated regulation trainings, and technical seminars.
25. Conservation Agent: \$21,218- This line item is to fund the services of the Conservation Agent. This salary includes a 3% increase over Fiscal Year 2018.
26. Historical Commission: \$500- This account pays for copying, membership, meetings and other expenses of the Historical Commission. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.
27. Planning Board: \$285- This account pays for annual subscriptions, meetings and other expenses of the Planning Board. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.
28. Recreation Committee: \$3,750- 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 Fiscal Year 2018.
29. IT Services: \$20,600- This account is for our contracted IT services. It covers the expenses related to server maintenance and support, workstation maintenance and support, and overall IT support for all town owned buildings. This line was increased by \$600 over Fiscal Year 2018.
30. Technology Hardware: \$10,000- This account is used to pay for the replacement and/or repair of workstations, copiers, printers, etc., in all town owned buildings. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.
31. COA Director/Administrative Assistant-\$28,389- This is the annual salary for the Council on Aging Director/Administrative Assistant position. The Administrative Assistant provides office support to the Town Administrator, Treasurer, Board of Health, as well as others as needed. This includes a 3% salary increase over Fiscal Year 2018.
32. Council on Aging: \$4,722- This account pays for the various programs offered by the COA, including senior lunches, health programs and the van program. No change from Fiscal Year 2018. The council also receives funding from a state grant and has access to a revolving fund.
33. Tax Collection Services: \$1,500- This account pays for the cost of an outside service to perform the duties of the deputy tax collector, legal fees, and other costs associated with the collection of overdue taxes that have yet to go into Tax Title. This account was decreased by \$3,000 from Fiscal Year 2018.

34. Veterans' Agent Salary: \$2,250. This is the annual salary for the Town's Veterans' Agent, now contracted through the City of Pittsfield. This account was increased by \$293 over Fiscal Year 2018.

35. Website Hosting: \$1,900. This is the annual cost of hosting our Town's website and includes technical support.

PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY

36. Police Chief Salary: \$3,046- 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. 3% increase from Fiscal Year 2018.

37. Police Department Expenses: \$1,000- This account pays for the equipment and supplies used by the department, such as badges and firearm licensing supplies. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.

38. County Communications: \$12,360- This account pays Richmond's share of the Berkshire County Sheriff's Department to operate the 911 emergency dispatch system. This is a \$360 increase from Fiscal Year 2018.

39. Constable Salaries: \$1,288- This is the salary account from which we pay the Constables and the Police Chief if they are needed to direct traffic or for performing similar duties. This is a \$38 increase over Fiscal Year 2018.

40. Constable Expenses: \$1250- This account pays for Constable mileage, shirts, radios, and other expenses. This account was increased by \$1,000 over Fiscal Year 2018.

41. Animal Control Officer Salary: \$3,107- This is the annual salary for the Animal Control Officer. 3% increase from Fiscal Year 2018.

42. 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 Fiscal Year 2018.

43. Fire Department: \$61,514- This account pays for fuel, truck and equipment maintenance, training, stipends and other expenses of the Fire Department. This is a decrease of \$500 from Fiscal Year 2018.

44. Fire House Rent: \$14,400- This account pays the rent to the Trustees of the Volunteer Fire Department for use of the building. This account was increased by \$2,400 to reflect the increase in the lease for Fiscal Year 2019.

45. Emergency Management: \$5,900- This account pays for equipment and supplies for this department, which provides assistance and direction during natural disasters, storms and other emergencies. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.

46. Fire Chief/EMD Salary- \$15,000. This is a new line this year and is proposed to replace the inspectional fees and call stipends provided to the Fire Chief. This would remain a part-time, non-benefit eligible position.

47. Tree Warden: \$7,500- These funds are used for contracting with a tree service to remove problem trees. This account was increased by \$565 over Fiscal Year 2018.

48. Building Inspector Salary: \$7,021- This is the Building Inspector's annual salary. He has office hours the first, second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 9:30AM-11AM and is available on call. This is a 3% increase from Fiscal Year 2018.

49. Building Inspector Expenses: \$4,500- This account pays for training, expenses and mileage of the Building Inspector and Assistant. This account was increased by \$3,500 this year to include the cost of Building Software expenses.

50. Assistant Building Inspector: \$258- 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. This represents an 3% increase from Fiscal Year 2018.

51. Zoning Enforcement Officer Salary: \$3,759- 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 on the first, second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 9:30AM -11AM and is available on call. 3% increase over Fiscal Year 2018.

52. Zoning Enforcement Officer Expenses: \$1,000- This account pays for meetings, mileage and other expenses of the ZEO. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.

53. 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 Fiscal Year 2018.

HEALTH

54. Board of Health Salaries: \$850- This is the annual salary account to be divided among five board members. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.

55. Board of Health Expenses: \$2,095- This account pays for meetings and other expenses of the

Board of Health. This year, the expenses have been reduced by \$820 from Fiscal Year 2018 to help offset the cost of Board of Health Contracted Inspectional Services.

56. Board of Health Agent Salary: \$4,800- The Board of Health Agent witnesses perc tests, tracks the solid waste collection program, and serves as the principal staff person for the Board of Health. This year, the salary of the Health Agent was reduced by \$428 to help offset the cost of Board of Health Contracted Inspectional Services.

57. Board of Health Agent Expenses: \$1,140- This pays for the mileage, supplies and other expenses of the agent. This represents an increase of \$95 over Fiscal Year 2018.

58. Board of Health Contracted Services: \$3,000- This account is being proposed this year to cover the cost of Inspectional Services provided to the Board of Health by the Berkshire Public Health Alliance. The BPHA provides regular food service and camp inspections throughout Town.

59. Animal Inspector: \$204- 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. 3% increase over Fiscal Year 2018.

60. Rubbish Disposal: \$177,022- 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. This is a \$5,156 increase from Fiscal Year 2018 due to an increase in the contracted amount for trash collection.

61. Community Health: \$25,500- This account funds the contract between the Community Health Association and the Town for Public Health Nurse Services. This is a \$250 increase over Fiscal Year 2018.

62. Nuisance Abatement: \$500- This account provides funds to address public health matters that are an immediate threat to public health and safety. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.

HIGHWAYS

63. Machinery Maintenance: \$57,500- This account pays for the upkeep and repair of equipment and trucks. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.

64. Road Construction: \$125,000- This account, combined with state transportation bond funds, pays for road construction and re-construction. This line was increased by \$25,000 over Fiscal Year 2018 to fund bridge engineering expenses related to grant applications that are in-process.

65. Road Maintenance: \$171,604- This account pays for routine road maintenance, including the cost of DPW salaries from April 1st-November 1st. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.

66. Town Garage: \$19,478- This account pays for fuel, utilities and other expenses at the Town Garage. This represents an increase of \$1,134 over Fiscal Year 2018.

67. Winter Roads: \$263,673- 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 represents an increase of \$594 over Fiscal Year 2018.

68. Gravel Roads: \$55,000- This account pays for the maintenance of the gravel roads. This account was increased by \$5,000 over Fiscal Year 2018.

69. Vacation and Sick Pay: \$15,962- This account is used to pay the road crew when they are sick or on vacation. This represents a decrease of \$985 from Fiscal Year 2018.

70. Private Roads: \$3,500- These funds are used to help Richmond Shores and the Whitewood Association maintain their private roads, pursuant to Chapter X of the Town Bylaws. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.

71. Beaver Control-\$3,500- 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 Fiscal Year 2018.

72. Town Beach: \$15,595- This account pays for the lifeguards and equipment costs involved in running the Town Beach. This represents an increase of \$2,750 over Fiscal Year 2018.

UNCLASSIFIED

73. Berkshire County Retirement: \$172,551- This account is Richmond's share paid to the Berkshire County Retirement System to cover the town's municipal employees. Teachers are covered under a separate retirement system administered by the state. This is a \$26,290 increase from Fiscal Year 2018 due to an increase in the annual assessment.

74. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission: \$1,150- This is the county's regional planning agency that reviews projects and assists cities and towns on planning and zoning matters. This account was reduced by \$6,350 from Fiscal Year 2018 to reflect the expected needs of the Town in the coming year.

75. Cemetery Superintendent Salary: \$8,279- This is the annual salary of the Cemetery Superintendent who maintains the town's cemeteries. This is an increase of \$242 from Fiscal Year 2018.

76. Cemetery Expenses: \$2,000- This account pays for the equipment and supplies in maintaining the cemeteries. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.

77. Group Insurance: \$159,708- This account pays for the town's share of the health insurance, dental insurance, life insurance for non-school employees. The cost for school personnel is included in the school budget. This account was decreased by \$18,524 from Fiscal Year 2018. This line is estimated based on the number of anticipated policies for the coming year.
78. Insurance and Bonding: \$95,000- This account pays for the Town's insurance policies, including motor vehicle, property, public liability, worker's compensation, and officers' bonds. This account was increased by \$10,000 this year to cover the expected increase in our policy for the coming year.
79. Library: \$57,985- This account pays the salaries and operating costs of the Library. This account has been increased by \$1,039 over Fiscal Year 2018.
80. Library Rent: \$12,000- This is for the annual rent for the library building. The Town is entering year 3 of a 3-year lease in July. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.
81. Memorial Day: \$200- This account pays for flowers, markers and flags for Memorial Day. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.
82. Stationery and Office Supply: \$9,200- This account pays for paper, pens, pencils, postage, toner, and similar expenses at Town Hall. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.
83. Unemployment Reserve: \$2,500- This amount will help to cover the town's liability if a non-school employee files an unemployment claim. This account has been decreased by \$10,610 from Fiscal Year 2018.
84. Banking Services: \$200- This account pays for banking fees and charges. This line has been reduced by \$100 from Fiscal Year 2018.
85. Medicare: \$35,000- This account pays the town's share of Medicare employee withholding. This is a \$2,132 decrease from Fiscal Year 2018.
86. Veterans' Aid: \$7,500- 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. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.
87. Stray Animals: \$100- This account will help pay any costs associated with retrieving stray animals, usually farm animals. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.
88. Town Building Maintenance: \$20,000- This account helps to pay for routine maintenance for all town buildings. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.
89. Legal Advertising: \$7,000- This account pays for the many legal ads that the town runs each year, ranging from invitations for bids to notices of public hearings. No change from Fiscal Year

2018.

90. Group Purchasing: \$600- This pays for the town's membership in the regional group purchasing program. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.

91. Training: \$8,500- This pays for most training/continuing education opportunities for town officers and employees. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.

92. Office Equipment and Software Support: \$20,000- This pays for regular software purchases, service contracts, office equipment and furniture, and related expenses. This account was reduced by \$9,500 from Fiscal Year 2018.

93. Richmond Pond Ramp Monitors: \$20,000- This pays the wages for the summer boat ramp monitors who under state regulation are required to certify that all water vessels launched from the state boat ramp are free from weeds and zebra mussels. The State of Massachusetts provides funding to offset some of the costs associated with the administration of this program. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.

94. Miscellaneous Expenses: \$700: This pays for miscellaneous expenses that cannot be justified by any other funding source. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.

Article 6- School Bond Payment: \$146,400

This article will pay the interest and principal payment for the 10-year school project bond. Once completely paid off, the amount needed to fund this expense will no longer be added to the town's levy. The remaining schedule for the bond payments is as follows:

Fiscal Year 2019	\$146,400.00
Fiscal Year 2020	\$146,200.00
Fiscal Year 2021	\$150,800.00

Article 7- Reserve Fund: \$20,000

This funds unexpected expenses with the approval of the Finance Committee. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.

Article 8- School Budget: \$3,329,279

This represents a 4.3% increase over the Town's Fiscal Year 2018 school 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 2018 budget and the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2019. Each account group has several sub-accounts which are not shown for space reasons. A full breakdown of the budget can be viewed on the school's web-site: www.richmondconsolidatedschool.org

	FY 2018	FY 2019
School Committee Accounts	\$10,770	\$10,540
Union Accounts	\$15,781	\$10,332
Superintendent Accounts	\$69,073	\$72,043
Union Coordinator Accounts	\$3,212	\$383
Special Education Accounts	\$378,769	\$341,189
Principal Accounts	\$126,366	\$135,449
Supply Accounts	\$40,775	\$37,275
Teaching Accounts	\$1,286,087	\$1,470,816
Library Services	\$6,495	\$6,250
Professional Development Accounts	\$21,300	\$21,300
Technology Accounts	\$44,550	\$40,000
Health Accounts	\$50,467	\$55,480
Transportation Accounts	\$214,161	\$217,772
Activity Advisor	\$23,000	\$12,855
Tuition Accounts	\$327,438	\$309,437
Food Service Supervisor	\$58,620	\$59,492
Operations & Maintenance Accounts	\$274,075	\$259,075
Employee Benefits and Insurance Accounts	\$626,275	\$650,252
Unemployment Accounts	\$5,000	\$5,000
Contingency Accounts	\$18,500	\$20,670
Total	\$3,600,713	\$3,735,610
Amount raised and appropriated by the town	\$3,192,966	\$3,329,279
School choice, grants and pre-school revenue	\$407,747	\$406,331

Article 9-Cemeteries: \$5,000

This appropriation is to fund repairs and maintenance to cemetery monuments as well as address the removal of trees and tree limbs within our cemeteries when needed.

Article 10- OPEB Trust Fund: \$100,000

This deposit to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund (established under the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 32B, section 20) will be the third year of funding the liability for future OPEB costs, primarily retiree health insurance premiums. The source of this request is Certified Free Cash.

Article 11- Town Hall Repair Stabilization Fund: \$10,000

This fund is used to cover capital improvements to Town Hall. Like other “savings accounts”, deposits are made annually to be used as a funding source in the coming or future fiscal years. The source of this request is Certified Free Cash.

Article 12- Town Hall Repairs: \$100,000

This article would fund ongoing repairs to the Town Hall building, including but not limited to: foundation repairs, plaster repairs, interior/exterior painting, electrical upgrades, and other similar expenses. The source of this request is the Stabilization Fund which will require a 2/3 majority vote.

Article 13- Conservation Land Trust Fund: \$9,500

This appropriation goes into a fund that can purchase land for conservation purposes. The fund currently contains approximately \$351,845. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.

Article 14- Sewer Enterprise Fund: \$225,000

This will fund all expenses, salaries and debt service associated with the operation of the sewer system. A detailed breakdown of the budget is included in the Warrant. The revenues to fund the sewer come from fees and betterments from the users (department receipts). Any funds not expended in upcoming fiscal year will revert to the sewer enterprise and become the retained earnings in future fiscal years.

Article 15- Ambulance Account: \$45,000

The Ambulance Account is composed of the fees received from operating the Ambulance Service and pays for vehicle replacement, 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. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.

Article 16- Voting Equipment: \$5,400

This article would fund the replacement of our outdated voting equipment for which we can no longer acquire replacement parts for. This is a one-time expense and the source of funding is Certified Free Cash.

Article 17- Solar Radar Signs: \$7,200

This article would fund the purchase and installation of two (2) solar powered, radar controlled speed signs in the school zone on Route 41 (one for the northbound lane, one for the Southbound lane). These are intended to slow traffic during drop-off/pick-up times and during school hours. The source of funding is Certified Free Cash.

Article 18- Treatment of Weeds in Richmond Pond: \$15,000

Systemic and spot treatment of Richmond Pond to control invasive species. No change from Fiscal Year 2018.

Article 19- School Playground Upgrades: \$20,000

This article will fund improvements to the playground surface at the Richmond Consolidated School. It is expected that the remaining cost will be supported with existing school budget funds. The source of funding is Certified Free Cash.

Article 20- Town Barn: \$100,000

This article will fund the replacement of our Town owned barn (the red barn located behind the Post Office building), that is currently used by our Highway department. The building is beyond repair and is in need of replacement. The source of funding for this article is the Stabilization Fund which requires a 2/3 majority vote.

Article 21- Mini-Pumper: \$2,800

This article would fund the remaining balance for the purchase of a Fire Department mini-pumper that will be acquired through a Federal Grant. The source of funding is Certified Free Cash.

Article 22- Technical Assistance: \$40,000

This article would fund three (3) categories of consulting and technical assistance in the coming years, in order to continue the work related to long-range planning. It is proposed that roughly \$20,000 would be used for a Town Hall study to identify the upgrades needed for our current Town Hall. Roughly \$10,000 would be used to assist the Municipal Building Committee with the Library grant application process, and the remaining \$10,000 would be used to continue the Marketing efforts of the Town through a contract with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC).

Article 23- No funding requested

This article would allow the Library Board of Trustees to explore options available to them for constructing a new library.

Article 24- No funding requested

This article would allow the Library Board of Trustees to apply for, accept, and expend any funding available to them for the purpose of planning and designing a new library.

Article 25- Board of Assessors

This article would allow the continuation of the practice of exempting from taxation, low dollar value personal property. Collecting these low value amounts often costs more in processing and postage than is collected in revenues.

Article 26- Demand Fees

This article would allow the Tax Collector to charge a fee of \$30.00 for tax demands.

Article 27- Short-Term Rental Zoning Bylaw

This article would amend the current Zoning Bylaw by including a new section (4.8) to regulate short-term rental businesses.

Town Election Notice

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 19, 2018, at 11:00 AM, to bring in votes for the following Town Officers:

One Member of the Board of Selectmen-3-year term
Two Members of the Board of Health-3-year terms
Two Members of the Finance Committee-3-year terms
One Member of the School Committee-3-year term
One Member of the Board of Library Trustees-3-year term
One Member of the Planning Board-3-year term
Town Moderator-1-year term

And the polls may close at 7:00 PM.