

MINUTES

TOWN OF RICHMOND BOARD MEETING March 12, 2026 6 P.M. RICHMOND TOWN HALL - 1428 100TH ST.

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm by Chairman Gary Knutson.

Roll Call – Present were Knutson, Supervisors Peirson, Naser, Stephens, and Van Dyk (remote). Also present Attorney Paul Mahler, Clerk Earley, Plan Commission members Tom Derrick (remote), Bill Norge, Randy Berenschot, Sue Curtis, Linda Hendrix, Todd Dolan, Kelly McNamara, Jon Sonnentag.

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda approved on motion by Peirson/Stephens.

Minutes of February 12, 2026 - Regular Town Board Meeting approved on motion by Stephens/Peirson.

Treasurer Report - accepted as presented

Public Comment – Randy commented on the tree removal next to the town hall and wasps and box elders getting in through electrical service entrance. Randy volunteered to caulk the affected area. Gary will purchase caulk.

REPORTS

1. Building Inspector/Permits - no new homes. 2 permits \$141,281 est value.
2. Animal Control - 1 dog call
3. Plan Commission - Meeting March 24th. Derrick and Ayres terms up for reappointment.
4. Ambulance – next meeting is Wednesday, March 18.
5. Fire - Feb 18 capital projects reviewed. Discussed combining purchasing power for gear and equipment.
6. WTA - Gary and Jim attended WTA BOR training in Eau Claire.
7. Recycling Center - \$2022 negative balance thru Feb 28th, which is on pace with 2025.
8. Emergency Services -
9. Sanitary District – Next meeting is April 12.
10. Transportation – Snow removal cost to date: \$42,794 compared to \$50,798 this time last year. Cost of plowing is roughly \$4,000 per round. Brushed 95th St. and 140th Ave. Discussed removing dead trees in right-of-way. Fish & Wildlife is going to improve pathway on 112th St. per settlement agreement and appropriate signage. There is grant money available for small bridges/culverts. Angela Popenhagen will apply for grant for culverts on 140 Ave/140th St. at a cost of \$2500.

UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

1. **Consider for approval, as recommended by Plan Commission, minor subdivision (proposed 2 lots) CSM for Jason Wood. Property at 1186 Business HWY 64, legal description is NE¼, NE¼, Section 4, Town 30N, Range 18W.** Jon Sonnentag, represented Jason Wood and explained the City has approved, and requested only mapping the portion that lies within the Town. Per Plan Commission, Carriage house should be removed and CSM marked as private drive, also well and septic abandoned. Pat will complete County checklist and forward to Jon Sonnentag for submittal to St. Croix County, and attach copy of plan commission minutes. Motion by Naser/Stephens to approve the CSM with conditions as follows: “Carriage house” to be removed within 6 months of building permit for new home and before occupancy, CSM to show that shared driveway is a private drive, and existing well and septic properly abandoned. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
2. **Consider Building Inspector contract renewal with All Croix Inspections, Todd Dolan; for two-year term 4/1/2026 thru 3/31/2028.** Todd Dolan present with Kelly McNamara from All Croix. Todd explained changes and price increases in the proposed two-year contract. Motion to approve two-year contract from 4/1/2026 through 3/31/2028 by Stephens/Naser carried by unanimous voice vote.
3. **Discuss roadwork schedule for 2026** – St. Croix County did a 3-year plan for chip sealing, road patching, maintaining gravel cul-de-sacs, ditch mowing, brushing, and 95th St. construction. Gary outlined estimated costs involved. \$290,000 is the estimated total, leaving \$60,000 remaining in transportation budget. The 95th St. construction is a separate budget item and not included in the above total.
4. **Discuss an invitation to join area towns to form a collaboration to exchange ideas, concerns and activities that take place in the St. Croix River Valley. Monday March 16,** Pat advised that he and Sheri would attend and report back.
5. **Presentation by St. Croix Cures organization regarding operations ordinances:** Linda Hendrix, from CURES (Citizens United for Responsible Environmental Stewardship) spoke on water quality and high nitrate issues in area water supplies. Operational ordinances can be used as a preventative measure to protect the town from future large CAFO operations. Sue Curtis, President of St. Croix Cures spoke on the organization and their plans and goals. Sue also spoke on impaired waters list, potential new CAFO operations, and data centers. Asked the audience to think more about potential issues and suggested the town consider an operations ordinance.
6. **Agenda for annual meeting** – discussed items for annual meeting and agreed to keep usual agenda of financial reports and general overview of town, and keep it open for town electors to discuss items of their choosing.

Agenda Items for April – Appoint clerk, treasurer, plan commission members, set BOR date, discuss use of city of NR compost site.

Approval of Bills – Motion by Naser/Peirson to pay bills totaling \$44,033.46 carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Announcements – absentee ballots for April 7 election begin mailing March 17, with in-person voting by appointment starting April 24.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm on motion by Peirson/Naser

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Earley, Clerk