

MINUTES OF THE RICHFIELD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Date: September 22, 2025

Location: Richfield Town Hall

Time: 7:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Members Present:

- Commissioner Kevin Almond
- Commissioner Barry Byrd
- Commissioner Christy NeCaise
- Commissioner Cynthia Heglar
- (Absent) Commissioner Mike Beaver

Visitors Present: Brian NeCaise, Robert Greene, Victoria Greene, Sharon Blatt, Jim Misenheimer, Jennifer Lehn, Terri Byrd, June Almond, John Risley, Stacy Almond, Carson Yuckel, Savannah Burleson, Gary Weart, CJ Crisco, Cherri Martin, Jeff Balfrey, Tony Misenheimer, Gina Misenheimer, Rich Cosgrove, Bonnie Smith, Tyler Gordon, Rick, Gordon, Connie Gordon, Romei Smitherman, Lynn Galloway, Gale Kirk, Aj & Leslie Davis, Natalie Blake, Ron Vigil

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Byrd calls the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Commissioner Byrd: suggests moving Hero Banner program to be the first discussed after approving minutes, followed by Stacy Almond and then continuing to Old Business. Suggestion to continue to Old Business before finishing Formal Requests is to hopefully answer some questions on those topics.

Motion #75-25 APPROVAL OF AGENDA CHANGES

Commissioner Byrd motioned to accept the changes to the agenda.

Commissioner Heglar seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Motion #76-25 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Byrd motioned to accept the agenda as amended.

Commissioner Heglar seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Motion #77-25 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 25, 2025

Commissioner Heglar motioned to approve the minutes from August 25, 2025

Commissioner Almond Seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Formal Invite: Ron Vigil VFW Post 6369

Hero Banners Program. New London has kicked off their Hero Banners program. New London already set a dealing of 9/30 to sign up to have a banner placed in New London. There is opportunity for Richfield to be a part of this. Mosco Designs in creating the banners. Mayor Tate wants New London to include Richfield.

Motion #78-25

Commissioner NeCaise Motioned for Lindsay and Carolyn to talk with New London's Mayor, Mayor Tate Daniels, about the banner program they are doing and gather more information.

Commissioner Almond seconded.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Formal Request: Stacy Almond

See attached "exhibit A" for a summary of Mrs. Almonds recommendations she presented to the Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mike Beaver: Commissioner Byrd states he is getting conflicting information about what our options are. He can attend meetings via Skype etc. but statute will not allow him to vote. He said he would continue to get clarity on this.

Temporary Vacancy of Mayor: Commissioner Byrd spoke with Geraldine Gardner about what to do right now. She advised that we need to replace the mayor/appoint a mayor now. She also said we need to have job descriptions for every job. Reappointing a mayor would put someone in office until the next mayor is elected in November 2026.

Commissioner Almond asked if we were going to wait 30 days since the Town did not post on the Town website until September 9th. Commissioner Byrd said he thought we said the next meeting. Commissioner Almond said that we could verify the minutes that were just approved. Commissioner Almond verified the approved minutes, said 30 days.

Commissioner Almond asked if we were going to place anything on the position. NeCaise went through the qualifications for Mayor from what she read on similar job descriptions online.

Commissioner Heglar said we need to appoint someone as quickly as possible and get someone in. Commissioners agreed. Commissioner Almond agreed and confirmed and asked were we not placing any stipulations on it then? Commissioners agreed.

Motion #79-25

Commissioner NeCaise motioned to select and appoint Sharon Blatt to serve as mayor until the next election.

Commissioner Heglar seconded. Motioned carried by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Byrd to a moment to say a special thank you to CJ Crisco.

CJ Crisco was given a moment to speak. Mr. Crisco thanked everyone and said he would love to help in any way. He said he would be getting involved more in the future, would love to be on the ballot for the upcoming election and will be coming to the planning board meetings as well.

Town Manager: Will be seeking help from Geraldine Garner and have her work with Sharon Blatt.

Stanly County Sheriff's Office Contract:

Commissioner Byrd stated that he spoke with Sheriff Crisco and he is unable to fill the position. Commissioner Byrd said that before the SCSO contract was renewed previously he was contacted by the Village of Misenheimer, and they expressed interest in placing a bid our police protection. Commissioner Byrd said that Sheriff Crisco said he would release the Town of Richfield from our contract to seek police protection elsewhere. Commissioner Byrd met with the Police chief and Administrator for The Village of Misenheimer. Village of Misenheimer offered 24/7 police protection for \$185k/year. They would hire more officers. This would include regular zone coverage along with the 24/7 police coverage under a contract with Village of Misenheimer. They already have the OK from their council. Commissioner Byrd said they would need a longer-term contract after the 1st term so they can plan expenditures down the road. Commissioner Heglar stated that we can afford it but we would have to be mindful of spending. Commissioner NeCaise asked about jurisdictional changes/licenses being worked out. Commissioner Byrd said the Police Chief should know what has to be done. Commissioner Byrd said he would be happy to work with the VOM and bring more information on the contract back to the board but they need commitment and assurance from us before they can do anything.

Motion #80-25

Commissioner Almond motioned to pursue with Misenheimer.

Commissioner Heglar seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Alliance Code Enforcement: There are currently 7 open cases. There is not much there that requires planning board involvement.

Formal Request: John Risley

Mr. Risley commends the town on the job ad. He continued by stating that the Town advertised for a position that doesn't exist. Explained Mayor-Council vs Manager-Council form of governing. He says working with Mrs. Gardner to make sure we aren't misleading applicants because we're calling it the wrong thing (Town Admin v Town Manager) is a good move.

Commissioner Byrd stated that we can't advertise for a Town Administrator because Carolyn's title is Town Administrator, so we need the NCLM to help us navigate properly.

Formal Request: Tony Misenheimer

Mr. Misenheimer said he would like to donate private funds to get Town Hall set up with video conferencing capabilities. Said there are video conference kits that can be purchased.

Commissioner Byrd commented that we are still unsure what the future of this building is.

NEW BUSINESS:

American Tower Lease: Carolyn told the board to take the letter from American Tower home and look it over for next board meeting.

Intake process/Format for agenda:

Motion #81-25

Commissioner NeCaise motioned to adopt a form that must be filled out in order to be on the agenda.

Commissioner Almond seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Almond asked what we needed to do in order to move the monthly meeting time to 6pm.

Motion 82-25

Commissioner Byrd motioned to change the monthly meeting time from 7pm to 6pm.

Commissioner Almond seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS**Commissioner Almond (Parks & Rec):**

Commissioner Almond said the pipe at the park is repaired. He took time to thank a lot of people who helped with the repair and stated that we came in under budget. Commissioner Almond stated that there needs to be a fence put up for safety reasons around the weir at the pipe. The board was presented with quotes.

Motion 83-25

Commissioner Almond motioned to hire Will Davis for the fence at the Park

Commissioner NeCaise seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Almond noted that people had mentioned dredging the sludge out of the pond. He spoke to Brian Cody about the cost of doing that and was told it would cost anywhere from \$165k-\$496k.

Commissioner Byrd (Zoning):

Commissioner Byrd said he had a text and email from the DOT re: funds allocated for pedestrian sidewalks. Commissioner Byrd said there is opportunity to get a sidewalk extension, and we might have a better shot at getting it done if we did a joint venture with the Village of Misenheimer.

Motion 84-25

Commissioner NeCaise motioned to talk to the NC DOT and Pfeiffer/Misenheimer about the sidewalk

Commissioner Almond seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Heglar (Finance)

Motion 85-25 APPROVE AUGUST FINANCIALS

Commissioner Heglar motioned to approve the financials for July 2025.

Commissioner NeCaise Seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Commissioner NeCaise (Streets)

Commissioner NeCaise stated that the survey of the streets is completed.

Commissioner NeCaise spoke on monthly accounting and audits. She said the NC League of Municipalities has directed us to a list of vendors they have vetted and approved. She said they have a program that is coming out in January they will be sending us information on.

Motion 86-25

Commissioner NeCaise motioned for Cindy and Carolyn to get quotes for CPA's.

Commissioner Almond seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Motion #87-25 – Motion to Adjourn (8:36pm)

Commissioner Byrd motions to adjourn

Commissioner Almond seconded. Motion carries unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Green: Culvert on Summer Street. Commissioner NeCaise let him know that the company the board approved to come out is still hung up on jobs at Culp Lumber. Commissioner NeCaise said she asked Jason if he wanted us to contact someone else but hasn't heard back.

Jim Misenheimer: comment about the Board needing to follow things the right way, appoint people to handle certain things, etc.

Jennifer Lehn: commented that one of the alternative companies for the fence was owned by Brantley Forrest.

Bonnie Smith: said that tonight's meeting was great. She apologized for speaking out at the last meeting. She asked about the hero banners.

Gale Kirk: Said the meeting was great.

Mayor/Mayor Pro Tem: Sham Blatt

Town of Richfield, Clerk: Carolyn Capps

Date: 11-24-25



Exhibit A

From: Stacy Almond
Date: 9/27/25
Subject: Summarized Recommendations Presented
Formal Request Presenter on Agenda: Stacy Almond
Date of Presentation: 9/22/25

I would like to summarize recommendations presented at the Town of Richfield Public Town Meeting as a Formal Request Agenda topic to the board and community on Monday, 9/22/25.

Board Explore and consider:

- Meeting Format Improvements –
 - Formalize a Public Comment Policy
 - Recommend that NC General Statute 160A-81.1 also be a guide/resource for formatting this policy.
 - Add New Business and Old Business topics applicable within the agenda to address previous meeting concerns and to add structure to the topics
 - Adopt bi-monthly meetings to address issues quicker
 - Increase administrative support hours to 40 hours per week to implement media upgrades, formalize policy/procedures, grant writing and council training gaps.
 - Adopt and formalize a Project Bid Policy for all projects:
 - Application
 - Scope
 - Deadline
 - Posting locations
 - Approval Signature by the board
 - Etc.
- Website:
 - Please update the community on the timeline.
 - Timing of when new site will be published
 - Add to agenda until completed
 - Recommendations website to include:
 - Direct Contact Information for all board members via email and phone
 - Include for the Town Council, Zoning Committee, Parks/Rec Committee and Planning Committee at minimum:
 - Calendar of meetings
 - Upcoming events

- Special Events
- List of agenda items, packets and approved minutes

- Public postings to clearly communicate:
 - Public Comment Policy
 - Project Bids Policy
 - Administrative Career Openings
 - Council Vacancies, Etc.

- Explore live webinars or at minimum recorded meetings to post online to add transparency.
- Further Education Options to offer Council Members
- Be mindful of your body language, tone of voice and verbiage and the impact it has on the audience and board members.