

**RICHMOND WATER AND SEWER
REGULAR MEETING
September 15, 2014 MINUTES**

Members Present: Bard Hill; David Sander (arrived 6:05 pm); Bruce Bailey; Bob Fischer

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager, Kendall Chamberlin, Water Resources; Chris Fischer; Sheila Bailey; Peter Pochop, Green Mountain Engineering; Kevin Camara, Green Mountain Engineering; Maureen Kangley; George Gifford; Harold Irish; Joy Reap; and Ruth Miller was present from MMCTV to tape the meeting.

Mr. Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

1. Welcome and Public Comment

Mr. Bailey asked if there were any comments from the public, but there was none.

Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

Due to the resignation of former board chair Ashley Lucht, the Water Commission moved to select a new chair and vice-chair.

Mr. Fischer nominated Mr. Hill for chair and was seconded by Mr. Bailey. The motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Fischer nominated Bruce Bailey for vice chair and was seconded by Mr. Hill. After some discussion, Mr. Bailey rejected the nomination and the vote failed 0-3.

Mr. Fischer nominated David Sander for vice-chair and was seconded by Mr. Bailey and the motion carried 3-0. Mr. Sander arrived at 6:05 pm.

West Main Extension Report

Peter Pochop and Kevin Camara of Green Mountain Engineering were present to explain the draft report on the West Main utility extension. The report was still a draft, and a more formal presentation would be made upon finalization.

Mr. Camara said that this included the access road and water and sewer lines, both to the Reap property and beyond. This also included a number of surveys which were submitted by property owners in the Gateway district. These were all positive, in favor of the project.

Mr. Camara explained his methodology and went through the numbers at the back of the report. He noted that the Jericho Road sewer line, which would receive the West Main extension flows, should be fine for this extra capacity.

Mr. Gifford asked how much this would cost. Additional discussion was had over the proposed numbers, which were substantial.

Mr. Hill said that we needed more time to go through the numbers before a discussion on the value of this line could be determined. Mr. Sander asked what the recommendations were? Mr. Chamberlin said that the individual site grinder systems were recommended because they were effective and

1 reduced costs for the system. There was a discussion of some issues. It was noted that a revenue
2 analysis was missing from the report.

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4 Joy Reap said that we should also examine an alternate route that may be shorter distance. The
5 Willis farm was not yet completely sold, so more easement locations could easily be made.

6
7 Mr. Hill asked if the road were not concerned, could the lines be in a different location and Mr.
8 Pochop said yes. Mr. Chamberlin said the more direct route went through more wetlands. It was
9 noted that the full proposed cost of road, water, and sewer to serve the properties in the Gateway
10 was \$2.6 million, with the road being \$1.6 million of that figure. It was agreed that comments should
11 be received by September 27th and this would come back on October 6th.

12 13 Economics of Fire Protection and Water Service

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15 Mr. Hill lead the discussion on economic factors of providing fire protection. Currently the fire
16 department pays for water is uses to fight fires, however, that does not include fixed costs for
17 infrastructure that was built to standards to allow fire protection. Mr. Hill suggested that the town as a
18 whole benefits from having water and apparatus to fight fires, and taxpayers fund apparatus and
19 above-ground facilities for our fire department. However, only the water users fund the storage tank,
20 lines and hydrants the fire department uses. He felt this was out of balance and there should be a
21 meaningful way to assign some of these subsurface infrastructure costs to the taxpayers as well,
22 since they, too, receive a benefit from such.

23
24 Mr. Chamberlin, who lives in Essex, spoke about how that town is doing just this and why. He said
25 the cost to the taxpayer was minimal. There was more discussion. In the interest of time, Mr. Hill
26 said this should come back at the November 3rd meeting.

27 28 Superintendent's Report on Leaks and Water Inventory

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30 The Water Commission reviewed Mr. Chamberlin's report on leaks – location, costs to repair,
31 common break locations, etc. The Commission reviewed Mr. Chamberlin's water line inventory which
32 reported location, length, material and age or installation date. It was noted that the East Main Street
33 lines were the oldest and had the most cast iron, which was the weakest in the system. The
34 discussion turned to how much was spent each year to repair leaks and whether or not it would be
35 prudent to pay the same amount or less to fund a bond to replace these lines.

36
37 Mr. Chamberlin said that he was in favor of small increases in repair budgets each year, with
38 corresponding rate increases. With this strategy, it allows you to prepare for more expensive repairs
39 without the "plateau" effect where you make big jumps less often. There was some discussion on
40 this.

41 42 Financial Reports

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44 The Manager reported on the current year budget status, and noted that the CPA had a personal
45 emergency and the final reports for FY2014 would be available at the last meeting.

46 47 Purchase Orders

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49 The Manager noted two Green Mountain Engineering purchase orders for work they were doing on
50 designing the Water Storage Tank. Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve Purchase Order 2432 to
51 Green Mountain Engineering for design work under RF3-302, in the amount of \$10,797.71 and was
52 seconded by Mr. Hill and the motion carried 4-0.

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1 Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve Purchase Order 2433 to Green Mountain Engineering for
2 design work under RF3-302, in the amount of \$12,377.85 and was seconded by Mr. Bailey and the
3 motion carried 4-0.
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5 Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve Purchase Order 2436 to Todd Chagnon Construction for the
6 Chlorine Contact Time project (awarded at a previous meeting) in the amount of \$156,250 and was
7 seconded by Mr. Bailey and passed 3-0-1 with Mr. Bailey abstaining.
8

9 The warrants were reviewed and approved.
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11 **2. Adjourn**

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13 Mr. Sander offered a motion to adjourn at 7:00 pm and was seconded by Mr. Bailey. So voted.

DRAFT