

**RICHMOND WATER AND SEWER  
COMMISSION MEETING  
December 17, 2012 MINUTES**

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Members Present: Ashley Lucht; Chris Granda; Amy Lord; Bruce Bailey  
Members Absent: Harold Irish  
Others Present: Kendall Chamberlin, Richmond Water/Sewer Superintendent; Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; and Ruth Miller was present from MMCTV to tape the meeting.

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Chair Lucht called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**1. Public Comment**

Ms. Lucht asked for comments from the public but there were none.

**Water Rates**

Ms. Lucht spoke about the need to restructure the rates incrementally. She advocated for the first step to be an adjustment to the ERUs, but the committee needed to meet to discuss this.

Mr. Chamberlain said that the system had already lost one septage hauler, and an estimated \$34,000 in revenue. Ms. Lucht said that this illustrates the need to take steps now to stabilize the revenue to avoid larger increases in the future.

Mr. Bailey said that this should be discussed in a public meeting about the rates before they were voted on.

It was discussed and agreed that a meeting in the middle of March would be arranged for a meeting on the rates.

**Capital Plans - Depot Street and Chlorine Contact Time project**

Mr. Chamberlin said that the cost of the chlorine contact time project was only \$70,000 and the remaining \$30,000 from the original estimate was for driveway and electrical improvements which may be managed under the current outlay. He said that if this was done, the tractor could be removed from the capital plan.

For Depot Street, it was estimated that \$50,000 could improve the water line there. There was some discussion about priority, and Mr. Chamberlin and Ms. Lucht agreed that the replacement of the water storage tank was a high priority item. This was due to the age and condition of the tank, water pressure and storage required for ISO ratings.

Mr. Granda said that the water commission needed to have a proposal for rates and impacts to provide the Selectboard with a "big picture" of the costs to the town. It was agreed that Ms. Lucht, Mr. Chamberlin and the Manager would work to develop a proposal for the tank replacement.

Returning to the Depot Street water project, it was supposed that \$15,000 would be put towards the project next year, with the remaining from a note to be paid over a period of time following, not exceeding five years.

**FY2014 Budget**

The Manager explained the draft budget. There were few operating changes, however, debt service and reserve funding were increased significantly in the first draft, and septage revenues were reduced

1 due to the loss of a large customer. User rates were projected to increase almost 30% to cover the  
2 difference.

3  
4 There was much discussion on this. The clear issue was capital funding, including debt service for the  
5 projects.

### 6 7 **Tom Carpenter Water Rate request**

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9 The Manager explained that Mr. Carpenter was upset that interest was one percent per month and there  
10 was also an eight percent penalty per quarter. The Manager explained that the new collection policy  
11 addressed this and the eight percent penalty was once per year now, mirroring tax collection.

### 12 13 **Baseball Equipment Shed**

14 The Manager explained that in 2007 the town allowed the baseball league to build an equipment shed  
15 on Volunteers Green inside what is known as the "floodway" which is where the water flows with a  
16 strong current during a flood. The town should not have done this, and has been battling with itself for  
17 years to try and correct the situation. The town has an approved site plan to relocate the shed next to  
18 the Wastewater Treatment Facility, which Mr. Chamberlin objects to.

19  
20 Mr. Chamberlin explained his objections, and felt that the shed could be located across the access road  
21 next to the current dumpster location.

22  
23 Cathleen Gent, Town Planner, said that the shed should be outside of the floodway and hoped all  
24 groups involved would be satisfied. Mr. Chamberlin said that the proposed site was maintained by  
25 Water Resources, and the shed should be in a more recreation-maintained area.

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27 Ms. Lucht said that the town's plan had been approved.

### 28 29 **Utility Line Relocation**

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31 The Manager explained that FEMA had rejected the town's hazard mitigation project to relocate the  
32 water and sewer lines beneath the bridge. The town was unable to show a loss history to prove that the  
33 costs of the project would equal a benefit of loss prevented. The alternative analysis performed by the  
34 town was rejected, and there was simply no data to support the regular analysis. The project appeared  
35 dead.

### 36 37 **Approval of Minutes**

#### 38 39 **Minutes November 5, 2012**

40 Mr. Granda offered a motion to approve the minutes of November 5, 2012 and was seconded by Ms.  
41 Lord and the motion carried 4-0.

#### 42 43 **Minutes of December 3, 2012**

44 Ms. Lord offered a motion to approve the minutes of December 3, 2012 and was seconded by Mr.  
45 Granda and the motion carried 3-0-1 with Mr. Bailey abstaining.

### 46 47 **Warrants**

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49 The warrants were approved and signed.

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1    **2.    Adjourn**

2       Motion by Ms. Lord to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Granda. So voted.