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Town of Richmond
Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission
Minutes of July 17, 2023

Members Present: Bard Hill, David Sander, Erin Farr, Jay Furr, Morgan Wolaver

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town Manager; Allen Carpenter, Interim Water Resources Superintendent; Steve Cote, Water Resources

Others Present: The meeting was recorded for MMCTV, Rich

MMCTV Video: <https://archive.org/details/RichmondWaterSewer07172023>

Call to Order: 5:30 pm

Welcome: Wolaver

Public Comment:

Sander: I just want to pass a huge thank you to Town staff, Water/Sewer, and Highway. Everybody's really stepping up to the plate and getting out. I also want to pass along my condolences to the First Responders who pulled the victim out of the Huntington River. Our hearts and thoughts are with them.

Wolaver: I will second that on the staff. Everybody here really stepped up to the plate.

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:

Hill: We might modify the dates on item (a) to July 10 – 17, 2023

Update on the July 10 – 17, 2023 flooding including boil water notice

Wolaver: On our street, one of our neighbor's driveway looks like somebody took a backhoe and went down each side. There were 10 or 15 people out there helping.

Arneson: The boil water notice has been lifted. Initially, we were told it was going to take 10 days to do one of the tests. By Saturday afternoon, they were able to confirm.

Cote: At four o'clock on Saturday, they emailed me the results of the tests. The State approved and lifted the boil water notice. We resumed pumping and everything is okay. Because the reservoir is so low, we ran out of fluoride in the system this morning. It has to settle overnight, and we'll turn it back on in the morning. Chlorine levels are right up to where the State wants them.

Brad shut the pumps off on Monday night as soon as the flood started to come over the road. We started running the wastewater plant at full capacity, at about 11 o'clock we

50 literally couldn't pump our effluent out of the plant anymore. An effluent sump pump,
51 from after Irene, had a lot of issues, it kept overheating. We got that all back up.
52 Everything was running in the plant, and it was running at peak capacity. If that pump
53 wasn't pumping, it basically was going to flood the filter room. We would have had to
54 buy new pumps, motors, and maybe even pumps for the filter system. There is no telling
55 how high it would have got. We're going to get it wired differently.

56
57 About three o'clock, the roof drains that are connected started to overflow into the
58 basement of where our influent pumps are. We put a sump pump in there and it cured that
59 problem. We really need to get rid of those roof drains from the system. Our wet well
60 was so full. The influent from the Town comes in that system that dumps into there. It
61 couldn't dump in anymore, so it just backed up.

62
63 Furr: At the water house we had to buy a new pump to get the clear well empty.

64
65 Cote: We had to buy a sump pump to pump out the clear well. At the water house that
66 overflowed with sediment. We wanted to pump out the clear well, to get as much of the
67 sediment out and we bought a small sump pump and did that. Then we flushed the well,
68 we shock treated the clear well. We cycled probably 10 times the clear well, which is
69 3700 gallons. We got chlorine residual in there that the State liked. Then they gave us
70 permission to bring that back up online. During the whole flooding time we were
71 running on the tank water out of the reservoir. We were getting dangerously low to not
72 having a chlorine residual. We brought the pumps on, and they lifted the boil water
73 notice all at the same time. The reservoir was up to about 20 feet tonight. It was down to
74 13 and full capacity is 24.

75
76 Hill: I have two unrelated questions. The first is around the roof drain. Is decoupling the
77 roof drains from the treatment system on our list?

78
79 Cote: The engineers came through and that was a mandatory thing they needed.

80
81 Hill: We should hold ourselves to a rigorous standard and do that soon. My second one
82 is about a sump pump that was overheating. It would seem to me that rewiring it is a near
83 term job. In terms of redundancy, should we have a replacement on the shelf in case it
84 fails?

85
86 Cote: It's a massive sump pump. I think it needs to be exercised on a more regular basis.
87 I don't think it's really been used since Irene. If we didn't have that free influent pump
88 that we got from Phil Laramie, we would have been sunk. We made arrangements with
89 P&P to start pumping out the manholes on the other side to keep everybody who's using
90 the system low. We talked with Stone Corral so that they wouldn't dump their 2500
91 gallons of waste into the system. The pump station at that time was completely
92 underwater and most of the control panels were completely underwater. We moved back
93 one manhole, we plugged the sewer line isolating everything on the other side of the
94 system. Then we just pumped it out repeatedly using P&P's truck every night. We saved
95 a little money because they just hauled it up to the school and dumped it into our manhole
96 up there. Phil had already ordered replacement motors for us if we needed them to put
97 down into the pump station. The water level was about six inches below all of the
98 electrical.

100 Sander: After Irene, we made the house waterproof.

101

102 Cote: There was still about 2500 gallons of water down there. I got into the electrical
103 panels and had a conversation with Dan Pratt. I went through and dried everything out as
104 best I could. By nine o'clock, we had pumped out the manhole that feeds into the system
105 through the switch. It's been running ever since. We have a small glitch with a float in
106 the pump house itself. That's why the light is blinking all the time. The only thing that
107 happened was a check valve broke on the sump pump inside the pump container. They
108 brought the dehumidifier and everything that was up high and everything's back online in
109 there now. There's still some problem with the float. As long as we keep looking in
110 there and make sure it's not filling with water. Last night, there was a discharge during
111 the night. The filter tanks overflowed because we were pumping too much volume
112 through them. The two filter tank alarms are disabled, they should not ever be disabled.
113 The SCADA system should have been monitored. It was not the biggest flow that we
114 had dealt with, so I know the plant shouldn't have discharged. I went down to take a
115 sample, there was a large amount of solids floating in the effluent and there should never
116 be any solids in the effluent. I've left the alarms just the way they were. I did not enable
117 them. I was not the one that disabled them.

118

119 Hill: There was a release of untreated effluent?

120

121 Cote: It's treated but it's not filtered. I have no idea what the volume was. There were
122 several points where it went off the chart. It just doesn't read anymore. For two days, the
123 plant operated, going about 450,000 gallons through the plant. We slowed it down a little
124 and you saw that it went down to about 300,000. During the storm, you couldn't have
125 done anything about it. All the manholes in the park were overflowed. Do you really
126 want manholes that stick up higher in the park? When you get flood stage like we were
127 at that, you know there's water going in and there's nothing you can do about it.

128

129 The only plant that I know of that is taking septage is Shelburne. On Monday, the plant
130 was full. We've had some problems with the press not operating right. During the
131 rainstorm, we decided to strip the press apart and do a complete maintenance of it. We
132 found out that the water solenoid going to the polymer mixing tank was leaking all the
133 time. It wasn't giving us a consistent polymer mixture. That might have been one of the
134 problems why we were having such problems getting the solids out of the septage.
135 We've got one coming in at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning. The plant is completely full
136 of septage so we can't take any more. There's a concern about how long we can keep it
137 without going septic. It's being aerated but it's progressively getting stinkier and stinkier
138 at the plant.

139

140 Wolaver: It sounds like a few things might be added to the 20-year study.

141

142 Cote: We took bacteria samples to get tested. We took them to the State, but we also
143 took bacteria samples to Endyne. The State bacteria samples had an accident in the lab.
144 The Endyne ones all came back passing. It was \$25 to have our three bacteria samples
145 done. I've documented everything that we did and everything that I think needs to be
146 addressed in the study. I was talking with Hinesburg's wastewater guy today and their

147 lagoons are close to running over because of all the water. They can't pump sludge to
148 Burlington because Burlington is dealing with what they've got to deal with.

149

150 **Review of list of water and wastewater items to be repaired or replaced**

151 Water and Wastewater Items to be Repaired or Replaced 7-14-23.pdf

152 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2023/0](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2023/07/3b_Water_and_Wastewater_Items_to_be_Repaired_or_Replaced_7-14-23.pdf)

153 [7/3b Water and Wastewater Items to be Repaired or Replaced 7-14-23.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2023/07/3b_Water_and_Wastewater_Items_to_be_Repaired_or_Replaced_7-14-23.pdf)

154

155 Cote: We need the solenoid valve that's coming back tomorrow. We're hopefully going
156 to bring the press up online and start running that tomorrow afternoon. We've also
157 reached out to have a polymer expert from the company come in and go through a jar test
158 to figure out if we're using the right kind of polymer. We're going to talk a little bit about
159 how the press runs and see if Brad and I can get educated a little bit on that.

160

161 Arneson: We were hoping to have bids reviewed prior to tonight's meeting for the water
162 tank mixer. From the last meeting we added the repair of non-essential items in the
163 wastewater pump station.

164

165 Furr: We can't get the septage out of the tank until the press is running.

166

167 Cote: We think that the best way to proceed is to batch the digester. We're going to
168 pump out of the tanks filling the digester. We just don't know how well the press is going
169 to react to the septage. We're going to small batch it into the digester. Our line is still
170 plugged underneath so we're still sucking over the top of the digester. It's not ideal, but
171 the solids are still plugged underneath. This week we want to process the solids that
172 we've got, get them out of the tanks, get our tanks empty, and then try to get the digester
173 empty. We're still pumping over the top with a suction hose. We empty it out, we throw
174 up a VAC truck over the side in the digester and suck near the outlet. Once we get that
175 cleaned down, then we'll actually hook the truck up to the other side of the line, and
176 actually pressurize it back into the digester and blow everything out. We had to do it last
177 summer at about the same time. The digester should be cleaned out completely at least
178 once a year. And it hasn't. Those tanks underneath the septage receiving have 3-4 feet of
179 solids in them. They're just sitting there percolating right now.

180

181 Hill: One of the benefits of emptying the tank is then you get to inspect the tank and the
182 component parts.

183

184 Cote: When we started on Monday to flood, we talked it over with Nate and we made the
185 decision to crack the valve going into our empty fish tank. We diverted part of the flow
186 into that big tank that was empty, kind of like an equalization basin. We're now pumping
187 it back in slowly. It lets us operate the plant at a little higher capacity. Alan just texted
188 me that the polymer guy would probably be next week.

189

190 **Discussion of Water Resources Department staffing levels**

191

192 Arneson: I was talking with Nate Frederick's who is overseeing as our certified operator.
193 I was talking with Nate about would it make sense to have a fifth person. He thinks it
194 really would and I think so too. We're looking at how many projects are out there, the list
195 goes on, not even including the list that we've just looked at. If we were to bring in

196 somebody else, the lead process or lead mechanical level, it's about \$90,000, for a rough
197 full total costs of employee benefits, wages, everything.

198

199 Furr: We're not thinking an operator-in-training?

200

201 Arneson: This is sort of an initial discussion. I haven't even really gotten feedback from
202 Steve or Alan or Brad much either. It starts the conversation.

203

204 Farr: I know in our budget for staffing, there were unused funds, because we weren't at
205 full capacity. This is an additional \$90,000.

206

207 Arneson: Right now, our budget is for three staff that we currently have plus another
208 superintendent. This would be for a fifth position.

209

210 Farr: I say yes.

211

212 Furr: I would agree. We've just spent the last 40 minutes talking about the absurd
213 amount of work these guys did. We have no redundancies.

214

215 Hill: Every time I've walked through the plant I can come up with a list of things. I think
216 that there's a backlog from what I've observed of sort of deferred maintenance.

217

218 Cote: We essentially have been operating with two operators right now.

219

220 Wolaver: The operators were slowly or quickly getting behind.

221

222 Cote: I would think going forward we are trying to get through to this 20-year study.

223

224 Farr: If we do hire another person, I hope that we also get a superintendent, the
225 superintendent and the new person come at the same time. It seems like you might be
226 able to work in pairs or whatever needs to happen. As we add another person, we're
227 going to need clear tasks for that person.

228

229 **Update on search for Water and Wastewater Superintendent**

230

231 Arneson: We do have two people that are interested in the Superintendent position. One
232 of them was out a few weeks ago to meet with staff. The second person was supposed to
233 come out on Monday but obviously canceled due to this flood. We've rescheduled for
234 this Thursday at two o'clock. I'd like to hopefully decide on which one to offer the
235 Superintendent position. The person we don't offer it to might be interested in coming to
236 work for us in a different capacity. We might potentially have two people right now.

237

238 Cote: After a long and lengthy debate, I want the Superintendent's position.

239

240 Furr: We're not opposed to it. I know that Alan was under provisional because he hadn't
241 passed a certain test. Where are you on your certifications?

242

243 Cote: I cannot be certified to operate the plant for four years. I haven't taken my test yet.
244 I have to have four years of experience. The Superintendent doesn't have to be certified at

245 a four as long as somebody at the plant is certified at a four. Brad has enough experience
246 and is in the process right now studying to get to his four. Brad is willing to do that if I'm
247 willing to take the Superintendence position. I want to take this plant and Richmond
248 through the 20-year study and back up to where it should be.

249

250 Hill: I think we have to defer it to the next meeting, deferring to Josh as the hiring
251 manager. What would that look like with five positions and who's where is maybe an
252 update at our next meeting.

253

254 Wolaver: I think we need five people.

255

256 Cote: I am already doing the job and it's not that big a step. There needs to be some
257 leadership to get us through floods and the 20-year upgrade.

258

259 Furr: When do you hit your four years?

260

261 Cote: I am a year and a half in. In October my water three licenses activated, I've
262 already passed that. I had to have 18 months experience for it to become operational.

263

264 Farr: From an HR standpoint, does Steve have to do anything for you to be considered
265 for that job?

266

267 Arneson: He would officially apply, which is a cover letter, resume, and a couple of
268 references. We should do an interview.

269

270 Cote: Over the year and a half, I've proven that I'm going to give everything to this
271 plant. I want you guys to make the decision. But I'm just going to tell you that I'm
272 interested.

273

274 **Review of monthly water data for June**

275 Guide to Monthly Water Report Data 6-22-23 .pdf

276 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2023/0](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2023/07/3d_Guide_to_Monthly_Water_Report_Data_6-22-23_.pdf)
277 [7/3d_Guide_to_Monthly_Water_Report_Data_6-22-23_.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2023/07/3d_Guide_to_Monthly_Water_Report_Data_6-22-23_.pdf)

278

279 Monthly Water Report for June 2023.pdf

280 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2023/0](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2023/07/3d_Monthly_Water_Report_for_June_2023.pdf)
281 [7/3d_Monthly_Water_Report_for_June_2023.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2023/07/3d_Monthly_Water_Report_for_June_2023.pdf)

282

283 Arneson: Everything's looking really good. We only saw three spots in fluoride slightly
284 below the 0.6. One spot here in chloride at 0.8.

285

286 Cote: Those low points for fluoride are when we're mixing.

287

288 Arneson: Just a couple of spots in the pH. Overall, the numbers are looking good, we
289 added the descriptions to the top, it's a quicker, easier reference.

290

291 Wolaver: What does the State expect when they see you missed a couple of blips like
292 that? Is it up to their judgement?

293

294 Arneson: I talked to them a lot about fluoride back in the fall. Consistently within their
295 ranges is what they're looking for. We've been a lot more consistent in the range since
296 October than you have ever been in the last 10 years. We are hitting 0.7 most every day,
297 we're at the average of 0.7. When Steve told me they were off on fluoride for a couple
298 days, I think the State will understand given the circumstances.

299
300 Cote: If you look at the data from the wastewater treatment plant, the fluoride levels
301 actually stay up. This is at the water house. The only way we have figured out how to
302 stop the fluctuation in the fluoride for the day that we have to mix it is we've toyed with
303 the idea of actually mixing a second barrel and then just pumping that in to the first
304 barrel. For the for the pH on the 11th, when the sheet was turned in to Allen, that number
305 was empty. I do not know where that number came from. I have a picture of the chart
306 when we turned it in.

307
308 Furr: We said we're going to be posting these numbers on the Town website. I see the
309 Consumer Confidence Reports. I don't see the monthly numbers out there.

310
311 Arneson: They're in each packet. I can repost them on the website.

312
313 Wolaver: Hopefully the town residents and users are feeling pretty good about our
314 numbers.

315
316 Cote: The State was really responsive when we started pumping. They wanted to see our
317 residual. It started down at 0.29 at five o'clock and by eight o'clock we were up to a 1.02.
318 I checked it again Sunday morning at eight o'clock, we were still at a 1.20 for a residual
319 into the system. The State guy was like, awesome, that's great.

320
321 Hill: I have a follow up question, which is not directly related. We're producing for the
322 month of June a total of 2.3 million gallons, more or less. My question speaks to leakage
323 or lost water. Do we know what we charge people for in the course of the month?

324
325 Cote: The system really should have a water audit done. A water audit takes what you
326 produced in a three-month time span. Then they take what you bill out. With our smart
327 meters, it's going to be really easy for us to do. They would like you to be under a 5%
328 difference. I don't know, to tell you the truth.

329
330 Arneson: How do you account for the reservoir difference?

331
332 Cote: The reservoir is pretty much full all the time. The reservoir right now doesn't get
333 any lower than 21 feet. The pump starts pumping at 21.5 and it shuts off at 23.5. We
334 keep the reservoir right there all the time.

335
336 Hill: It's clearly not the highest priority. It'd be interesting to know.

337
338 Cote: I took a rural water class where they talked a lot about water audits. Our system, I
339 believe, is pretty tight. There are systems out there that have a lot of leakage. Pipes fail
340 and it is a way of detecting pipe water leaks. If you're making 80,000 a day but your
341 customers are only using 50,000 a day, then where's it all going? I couldn't find any
342 record of a water audit being done at the plant anywhere.

343 Hill: Maybe it's a future item after the dust settles a little bit.

344

345 Wolaver: Where's the meter to measure the production numbers?

346

347 Cote: Right at the Waterhouse.

348

349 Wolaver: That would tell us if there's leakage in any of the lines.

350

351 Cote: That gives you the number coming right out of the clear well into the system.

352

353 **Update on gateway sewer expansion**

354

355 Hill: The short news is the scoping and pressure test of the line at the school failed.
356 Everything I know is a private line from the road to the school, so they own it. It failed
357 the pressure test. So now there are repairs. There was a question if we repair that leak,
358 will the Town take over the line? I personally suggest that we should be cautious. If it
359 were a new line, we should be comfortable taking it over. You don't really know what
360 the condition of the rest of the line.

361

362 Cote: The scoping showed about 50 feet in, the pipe sags and the scope went underwater.
363 It came back up at about 140-150 feet. We were above for a little bit, and then it went
364 right back underwater again. That shows that there's a lot of sag in that line. We could
365 only get the scope to go about barely under 600 feet. We were hoping to get 900. It was
366 literally underwater almost the whole time. Eventually the drag on the line pulling it
367 through water, it just starts spinning and it wouldn't go any further. Everything that we
368 saw is PVC. The school owns it and the school doesn't have any drawings. They don't
369 have any record of it. They don't know what it is. There could be cast-iron past where we
370 were. I agree with Bart that unless it's a completely new line, put into the Town
371 standards, then we shouldn't be privy to taking it over.

372

373 Farr: What would you do if someone else came to the Commission and asked that same
374 question. We have to think when we're doing something like the school line, what would
375 happen in the reverse or with other customers?

376

377 Wolaver: Have the Reaps commented about the scoping of it?

378

379 Hill: The one comment I heard was if they repair it, will the Town take it over? My
380 example was the road at Greystone, which then became sort of an albatross around the
381 neck of the Town. Now it's a bunch of repairs for lots of money. It would seem to me
382 the options are they give up or they could take over the school line and own that as well
383 as an extension. If I recall correctly, you cannot have two consecutive private lines
384 connected to a public system. So, it's one private line. Arguably the Reaps could take it
385 over, extend it and then it's their line the whole way. Then they are responsible for it. I
386 am not enthusiastic because if it is a private line, it's not eligible for the ~\$140,000 that
387 we have in State or in Federal grant money. It could be a new line the entire way and
388 what is the cost of doing that? It could be a parallel line, leave the school alone, that
389 probably doesn't make sense. Maybe the school contributes towards a new line, then the
390 Town would take over built by a combination of the school and the Reaps. If it's a new
391 line, built to Town specs, we would take it over. It then gets a little complicated. I

392 understand secondhand, the school is interested in the Town taking it over. The interest
393 of the Commission and the current ratepayers are not to take over a line that will require
394 repairs. The fact that there are the sags suggests some concern about the construction or
395 installation.

396
397 Cote: I do not know how carefully the bed was constructed and where the pipe was laid
398 in. We know the material. But when you're underwater, you can't really see if there are
399 cracks or are the joints together.

400
401 Wolaver: That brings up a second question. Is there leakage in the sewer line?
402

403 Cote: I made sure that Phil, the Mount Mansfield facilities director, was aware that there
404 is no pressure at all on the gauge when we tried pressure testing it. I made him aware that
405 there is a problem with your line somewhere with sewage leaking and you need to rectify
406 it. He had called out P&P and they were going us their line locator to actually plot it out.
407 Then they were going to try to proceed digging up where they might feel that there's
408 leakage and try to fix it.

409
410 Hill: I'll just add one other comment that there has been a lot of interest from many
411 circles about housing in the Gateway. For any sizable number of units in the Gateway,
412 they need sewage in particular. The way our ordinance is structured, the current users are
413 not going to pay for an extension to the new user. Our hands are somewhat tied, our
414 ordinance in the interest of the customers prohibits us from doing that. So, then who
415 would put in the new line? I think there's interest from many circles, but it's expensive, it
416 turns into quickly hundreds of 1000s or a million dollars. Nobody really wants to pay for
417 it. From where I sit, all we have is the Water Sewer Commission is our grant money,
418 rounded up to \$150,000. Any other money has to come from somebody else, that
419 becomes speculative. It's either in their interest or a future economic interest. Arguably,
420 the school could say it's time to replace it. We can probably conclude the Town's not
421 going to take it over and replace it for you or repair this one.

422
423 Furr: The school needs the service. The school bears some responsibility. They may
424 choose to just limp along with its current condition until it fails.

425
426 Farr: What is the liability for the school with a leaking septic pipe? They're going to
427 have to deal with it.

428
429 Cote: If it's leaking to the point where it comes to the surface and creates a mess then it's
430 a health hazard. I made Phil well aware that it's leaking, it is your problem.

431
432 Farr: We probably should talk more about this at another time. We know that their thing
433 is failing. If they get together and say we do want to do this, we've decided it's something
434 we need to build into the 24-25-26 budget then we probably should talk about what
435 would we want.

436
437 Hill: I suggested a follow up meeting that includes the Reaps, the school and us.

438
439 Farr: And a mediator?
440

441 Wolaver: They just have to put things on the table. This is what your line is, how do you
442 want to proceed because it is theirs.
443
444 Cote: It is between the school and the Reaps. If they could come together and spend the
445 money between them to bring that line brand new up to our code, then I don't have a
446 problem with us saying, take it over.
447
448 Hill: And we have \$150,000 in the kitty if that's the route we take. If that's not the route
449 we take, we don't have \$150,000 for a private line, we only have \$150,000 for a public
450 line. I don't think we need a mediator. This is what we got, here's what we can do, here's
451 what we can't do, what do you two want to do?
452
453 Furr: The calls that we have with the Reaps, Joy is feeling really stressed. The fact that
454 she's stressed doesn't mean we put her needs before the Water and Sewer Commission
455 and our water customers. She's starting to see no path forward. Her backup plan was that
456 they're just going to build storage units.
457
458 Wolaver: I wonder with the school being another public entity if they don't have some
459 avenues for money as well.
460
461 Hill: That is a reason to have a three-way conversation.
462
463 Cote: How much more would it be to go down Rt 2?
464
465 Hill: A lot more complicated in terms of permitting and longer. You have setbacks on
466 each side of the road if you do water and sewer. There's so little infrastructure, there's
467 nothing between the school and the Reaps.
468
469 Furr: We have very few people to share the cost with.
470
471 Farr: How does our \$150,000 come into play? Wouldn't the Reaps be considered a
472 private entity and the school is a private entity?
473
474 Hill: If it becomes a private line all the way down, we have \$150,000 in play. The grant
475 is to support economic development at the Reap's property. It's got to go all the way to
476 the Reaps for \$150,000 to be in play and it's got to be a line owned by the Town Water
477 Sewer Commission.
478
479 Farr: And the Town to own it all the way to the Reaps. Will the easement allow that as
480 well?
481
482 Arneson: The Richmond Land Trust easement?
483
484 Furr: They've not gotten back to us.
485
486 Arneson: They would allow the expansion to the Reaps. Beyond the Reaps is what
487 they're still not getting back to us. The grant was really just about economic development
488 at the Reap property along Rt 2. We've had some conversations with the granting agency
489 and it seems likely they would allow us to do it over the school, because it's still the same

490 end goal. It's a different route to get there. There would still be some paperwork and
491 details sorted out there.

492

493 Wolaver: That's a big item to be added to invite the school.

494

495 Hill: I sent an email that day saying do the follow up meeting with these folks in the next
496 few weeks.

497

498 **Follow up on discussion of structure of meeting minutes**

499

500 Arneson: What we found out was that the video isn't really a legal entity of the minutes.
501 Talking to VLCT, they're saying if you pare down the minutes, you're still meeting the
502 statutory requirements. We won't go bare bones like the statutory requirement. There'll
503 be some meat on those bones, just not as much as there is now. Then we would have a
504 link to the video so that people can really dive into something. The proposal was to have
505 agenda items and timestamps, so you can easily find where it is on the agenda.

506

507 Furr: With timestamps, I think that's reasonable.

508

509 Hill: What if we tried this for a couple of months and then say, is it working? My
510 tendency is to say let's meet the standard and put some meat on the bones as Josh
511 describes. He said, she said becomes a kind of tedious transcription of the meeting.

512

513 Arneson: I think you could try it for two or three meetings and if the Commissioner hates
514 it, we can go back.

515

516 Farr: I still think that with the attention that this Committee has garnered, it's not a good
517 idea to change at the moment. I was a little disappointed last week after I said that, and
518 then people were asking questions, that if they had read the minutes, they would have
519 known the answers to. I will say I read the Selectboard minutes religiously, I don't have
520 time to watch the videos. I don't have time to dick around with the timestamps. I read at
521 night, I read books before I go to bed on my phone. Sometimes I read the Selectboard
522 minutes. There is an ease in reading things and finding different people's opinions out by
523 having them written. That's my only observation. The synopsis and then if you want to
524 go back to the video, I think in all other committees, it's probably fine. This one seems
525 like it has a lot of things going on. A lot of investment, a lot of strong personalities, and a
526 lot of different things like the Reap stuff and the Gateway expansion. I read a lot of
527 meeting minutes to know when some of the Farr properties were in discussion with Rt 2
528 expansion. I would read the minutes and be like it doesn't look like we need to go.

529

530 Wolaver: Let's try it a couple of meetings. Then maybe we'll come back and people
531 participating in the meetings will say I really can't do this, we've got to go back to the old
532 way.

533

534 Furr: I'm sensitive to what Erin says. If there is a member of the committee who's not
535 comfortable with abridging them somewhat, then I would rather err on the side of more
536 detail than less. I know when you go to the MMCTV website, you bring up the meeting
537 and any given agenda item is just basically right there. I don't feel comfortable just

538 saying what one person spoke up, but let's just steamroller ahead anyway. I think it's
539 worth thinking about.

540

541 Sander: I'm sensitive to Erin's point. I think this is something we should be proud of not
542 running away from.

543

544 Wolaver: It seems like it's a matter of right there in the minutes. You pick it up, you read
545 through it versus like I got to stop here. I got to go click and look at a video to understand
546 this better.

547

548 Sander: There are times when I referred back to the minutes of meetings that I attended
549 six or eight years ago, and I can't figure it out.

550

551 Wolaver: It sounds like maybe we'll keep it as is for now.

552

553 **Follow up on sewer ordinance and fines related to stormwater connections**

554 1972 Sewer Ordinance.pdf

555 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2023/0](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2023/07/3h_1972_Sewer_Ordinance.pdf)
556 [7/3h_1972_Sewer_Ordinance.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2023/07/3h_1972_Sewer_Ordinance.pdf)

557

558 Wolaver: The Town's going to have to fine themselves.

559

560 Arneson: You could fine yourself up to \$1,000 a day. That's the thing, I think it gives the
561 option. Hopefully you can get people to change without that.

562

563 Wolaver: Start sending out notices and beware we're going to come.

564

565 Arneson: That was included in the mailing that we did some months ago. We obviously
566 haven't had time to follow up on it. The Commission does have that power if we get to
567 that point with customers.

568

569 Wolaver: It seems to be referenced in quite a few of these articles, certainly directly in I
570 think it's Article Five.

571

572 **Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders**

573

574 **Purchase Orders:**

575

576 *Sander moved to approve PO# 4649 to Town of Richmond for Administrative Support*
577 *January to June not to exceed \$15,000. Furr seconded.*

578 *Roll Call Vote: Farr, Furr, Hill, Sander, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.*

579

580 *Sander moved to approve PO# 4668 to MSK Engineers for Water Service Line Inventory*
581 *not to exceed \$43,300. Furr seconded.*

582 *Roll Call Vote: Farr, Furr, Hill, Sander, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.*

583

584 **Minutes:**

585

586 *Sander moved to approve the Minutes of 7/5/23 meeting as presented. Furr seconded.*

587 *Roll Call Vote follows discussion.*

588

589 Wolaver: One minor thing in the minutes. It was pretty minor. I can come back to it.

590

591 *Roll Call Vote: Farr, Furr, Hill, Sander, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.*

592

593 **Warrants:**

594

595 *Furr moved to approve the warrants of 7/17/23 as presented. Sander seconded.*

596 *Roll Call Vote: Farr, Furr, Hill, Sander, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.*

597

598 **Discuss Items for Next Agenda:**

599 *Staffing follow-up

600 *Review of Water and Wastewater Items

601 *Gateway Expansion

602 *Stormwater problems

603 *Water Tank Seepage

604 *Water Tank Mixer

605 *Firehouse Pipe Problem

606

607 **Adjournment**

608

609 *Furr moved to adjourn. Hill seconded.*

610 *Roll Call Vote: Farr, Furr, Hill, Sander, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.*

611

612 Meeting adjourned at: 6:59 pm

613

614 **Chat file from Zoom:** None