

**R I C H M O N D W A T E R A N D S E W E R
C O M M I S S I O N M E E T I N G
D e c e m b e r 1 6 , 2 0 1 3 M I N U T E S**

Members Present: Ashley Lucht, Chair; Amy Lord; Chris Granda; Bard Hill; Bruce Bailey

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager, Kendall Chamberlin, Water Resources; Peter Pochop, Green Mountain Engineering; Sheila Bailey; Linda Parent, Town Clerk; Bob and Chris Fischer; Michael Giangreco; Mary Beth Dwyer; Liz Low; and Ruth Miller was present from MMCTV to tape the meeting.

Ms. Lucht called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

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

Superintendents Report

Kendall Chamberlin reported that there were no significant issues. The department was prepared for Winter, and had installed new thermostats.

Mr. Granda suggested that the Water Resources Department consider an offer by Efficiency Vermont for a subsidized energy audit.

ISO Update and Water Storage Tank Engineering Report

Ms. Lucht framed the discussion about the tank regarding size, ISO requirements, line pressure requirements and cost. In summary, the size of the tank was in a large way directly related to the water storage requirement identified by ISO for firefighting. The site location was largely dictated by the need for higher pressure at the top elevations of the water system. Both of these factors reflected the cost of the project, identified in Green Mountain Engineering's Preliminary Engineering Report for the Water Tank.

Bruce Bailey wanted to see the requirement that shows we needed to build the tank so large. There was a significant discussion on fire protection and water pressure. Ms. Lucht noted that the 2010 Water Supply Rule changes mandated the requirements we weren't currently meeting.

Mr. Bailey said that we don't meet those requirements now, but insurance rates haven't increased. There was more discussion.

Peter Pochop of Green Mountain Engineering said that with the Jericho Road upgrades from 2011, the recommended fire flows could be met in most of the village, with the new tank, with consideration for average day demand. He estimated that the volume of the tank was roughly 80% fire protection and 20% consumption.

Mr. Granda asked if we have made this discussion in the proper way, which was how the decision to offer fire protection was made. For instance, did the rule mandate this or did we agree to meet the standard? There were no legal mandates for a water system to also fight fires, however, the Water Commission has decided this is the path we'll take.

Bruce Bailey asked was it worth the cost? Will we see a value out of it?

1 Ms. Lucht explained that without the tank of this size, we would not have adequate flows in the
2 permit, and we have a deadline to address deficiencies in the permit. The town could face legal
3 action.

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5 Kendall Chamberlin said that the reason we're a fire protection system was because in 1908 much of
6 the village burned, and it was determined that this should not happen again.

7
8 Bob Fischer asked about capacity at the hydrants. Mr. Chamberlin explained some of the fire flow
9 requirements identified in the last ISO report from 2008. There was additional discussion on costs
10 and options. Mr. Hill said that there were two facts we had to face, one was the permit and
11 requirements and the second was the engineering study. We need to publicize this.

12
13 Mr. Fischer asked if the pump capacity was taken into account for the amount of storage. Could we
14 pump 3,500 gallons per minute from the hydrant in front of town center? Mr. Pochop said yes. Mr.
15 Fischer said in order to get an ISO rating, would we have to upgrade the entire system?

16
17 Ms. Lucht said that 40% of the cost of the tank was attributable to fire protection, and we need to ask
18 the town taxpayers to share in that cost.

19
20 Linda Parent asked for copies of the PER.

21
22 Chris Fischer asked if once we do the tank, and we still don't meet ISO flow requirements at Farris,
23 then do we have to wait 30 years to obtain it?

24
25 Mr. Granda explained that if we have a fire protection system now, when we change our status such
26 as improving storage, we remain in compliance as long as we work towards our goals. Mr. Granda
27 offered a motion to support continuing status as a fire protection system and was seconded by Ms.
28 Lord.

29
30 Mr. Hill said we need to have an amendment to have the cost of the fire protection across the entire
31 town. Mr. Granda agreed to that amendment to his motion. The motion carried 4-1, with Mr. Bailey
32 voting against.

33
34 Mr. Hill said we need to know what was required to move forward with this. There was some
35 additional discussion.

36 Financial Reports

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39 The financial reports were reviewed. Ms. Lucht noted that one of the planning loans, RF1-101, was
40 planned to start a repayment schedule in 2015. She said that the other planning loan, WPL-170, was
41 scheduled to be repayed in FY2016.

42
43 Mr. Chamberlain asked when were we looking to do East Main Street? Mr. Granda said we need a
44 plan that includes a calendar for these projects. Pete Pochop said that the 2010 Preliminary
45 Engineering Report has timelines included.

46 FY2015 Budget

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49 Ms. Lucht noted that we should check debt schedules and make sure those are included properly,
50 especially for the planning loans just mentioned.

51
52 Mr. Chamberlain suggested floating a bond to do East Main Street, instead of just paying for the
53 planning loan. He said that if we faced a \$46,500 annual payment for the loan, and working on
54 projects continues to defer the loan, then we should pay \$46,500 on project debt instead. There was
55 discussion, but no conclusion.

1
2 Ms. Lucht said that the next meeting was a policy meeting and we should discuss connections and
3 allocations policies.
4

5 **Adjourn**

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7 Mr. Granda offered a motion to adjourn at 7:05 pm and was seconded by Mr. Hill. So voted.

DRAFT