

Richmond Water Commission Minutes  
8-19-19

Called to Order: 5:32pm

Present: Don Morin, Bard Hill, Josh Arneson, Kendall Chamberlin, Jessica Draper

Public Comment: NA

Agenda Changes: NA

Bard commented that there is a large multi-department infrastructure project happening in Waterbury, similar to what Richmond expected for East Main and similar to what may happen on our Bridge Street.

He also commented that on NPR there was discussion of fluoride in water's effect on pregnant women's fetuses. He suggested it might be good to keep these kinds of things in mind as water commissioners.

Bridge Crossing: Josh gave a brief update regarding the pending Bridge Street projects and the scope of that project. He explained that they would be meeting with the state and engineers tomorrow to get a better idea of how this project might proceed. Don said he talked to someone at Green Mountain Engineering, who suggested that we do only the crossing. He said he also talked to someone at Jameison Insurance who said the upper block would likely have to sprinkler their buildings in the future, and that we don't have plans that account for that future need. Bard suggested adding the capacity concern to the future agenda.

CHMS: Kendall said the water line is all set at the middle school, and the contractor will be returning to finish the hydrant modifications. Don said he has concerns that we are paying for work twice, and wants to avoid something like that in the future. Kendall said there is also now interest to take over the wastewater line.

VOSHA Inspection: Josh summarized the VOSHA inspection findings, fixes, and plans to fix the findings. He said that some items have already been addressed, but there are a few things that will take a while to complete involving policies and procedures. Bard said that in his experience, that inspectors can sometimes have different prerogatives and cite different issues that others may not. Don asked if we could invite them to come and do voluntary inspections, and Kendall explained that VLCT does provide something similar.

Health Insurance Cost: Josh explained that the green mountain care board approved an increase in the health insurance rate. Don said that the hospital is shopping their health insurance, so it may be worth looking into other options.

Mission and Goals: Don explained that his goals are suggested, and is asking the board for their review. He said in his experience on projects, they had monthly status discussions about financial status. Bard said he would like to see both boards review the same kinds of financial statements at the same time. Bard mentioned the contract management errors and systematic goals. The commission discussed policy change opportunities to improve our management system. Another item for discussion was staffing, backup, and succession planning as well as employee well-being. Discussion ensued about creating succession plans. Don said he is highly concerned about Kendall's successor, and wants a plan even if it isn't perfect. It was decided to look further into asset management and what is needed to speed up that process. Don also wanted the board to discuss the performance of contractors, especially Green Mountain Engineering. The final goal Don had suggested was the ties to the road infrastructure and zoning.

Superintendent's Report: Kendall is still looking for applicants for the open position. He said Allen and Aaron are visiting the Deer Island plant in Boston for an educational purpose. Kendall also said that he is meeting with the Bender block owners soon.

Minutes, Warrant, and PO's: David Sander moved to approve the minutes of 8-5-19 and 7-15-19. Seconded by Don Morin. All were in favor, so moved.

Next Agenda: Goals, Updates, Asset Management Process

David Sander moved to adjourn, seconded by Don Morin. All were in favor, adjourned 6:30pm.