

**RICHMOND WATER AND SEWER
COMMISSION MEETING
February 19, 2013 MINUTES**

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

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.

Superintendents Report

Mr. Chamberlin said that some repairs had to be made recently to one of the pumps at the plant. They had recently hired a new employee to replace Thacher Evans, who would start on Thursday. His name was Allen Carpenter.

He recently had a meeting with someone from the Vermont Water Supply division where they discussed deficiencies in the water system. The deficiencies were minor except for one, which was adequate water pressure to each account. This was a problem for several residences on Jericho Road and the schools. The state agreed to give the water system three years to correct the deficiencies, and this meant planning for a new water tank.

Speaking of the water tank, Mr. Chamberlin explained that the current water tank was "toast" and the repair company was not guaranteeing their repairs. The last time the tank was inspected was two years ago. The current tank was built in 1969 and was designed to last twenty years, but it was obviously almost forty four years old and interior rust was a problem. Mr. Chamberlin suggested that the town reach out to land owners on Jericho Road where a new tank site might be suitable. The Water Commissioners agreed that outreach at this time was a good action to take.

Mr. Chamberlin noted that Hinesburg was in need of some temporary assistance from a licensed operator, and he would be helping them out from time to time, and they would pay Richmond for his time.

Capital Plans

The Manager reviewed the plans in the Fy2014 budget, which included the water house access (\$11,000), Depot Street water line (\$15,000 down payment), chlorine contact time (\$100,000) and the general water capital contribution of \$49,000. There was discussion about funding, and how to pay for improvements. Ms. Lucht asked how adjustable these numbers were, and Mr. Irish asked how we were paying for Depot Street. Ms. Lucht said that Depot Street might or might not happen, depending on how the vote goes.

Ms. Lord asked if the parking lot could be replaced without the water line and Mr. Chamberlin said it could, but this was not the best way to proceed. He said that the water line could rupture and cause damage to the paved surface above.

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2 Ms. Lucht suggested that the parking lot could be done now, and the water line could wait for ten
3 years and Depot Street could be done in the next paving cycle.
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5 Chris Granda said that it wasn't that we couldn't pay but do we have to pay for all these at once? He
6 said we should look at other scenarios.
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8 Ms. Lucht said that we needed a rationale for improving rates. She explained the needs, driven on
9 weak revenues and not expenditures. She said that our next annual customers meeting would be in
10 May, and we should talk about these with the public.

11 Jack Linn said he wanted to stay informed on the rate discussions.
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13 Water Tank

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15 The discussion turned to the water tank. Ms. Lucht explained that the new tank needed to be forty five
16 feet higher in elevation than the current tank, to get appropriate water pressure. There was additional
17 discussion on the requirements for the tank.
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19 Approval of Minutes

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21 Ms. Lord offered a motion to approve the minutes of January 22, 2013 and was seconded by Mr.
22 Granda and the motion carried 4-0.
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24 Warrants

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26 The warrants were reviewed and approved. It was agreed that the next month's warrants would be
27 reviewed by Harold Irish.
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29 **2. Adjourn**

30 Motion by Mr. Irish to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Lord. So voted.