

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 5 , 2 0 1 4 M I N U T E S

Members Present: Bard Hill, Chair; David Sander; Chris Granda; Bruce Bailey; Bob Fischer

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager, Kendall Chamberlin, Water Resources; Peter Pochop, Green Mountain Engineering; Sheila Bailey; Robert Reap; and this meeting was not taped.

Mr. Hill called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Hill asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to speak, but there were none.

Discussion of Continued Interest in West Main Extension and Topographic Survey by Green Mountain Engineering

The Manager explained that he was tasked with gauging interest in the continuation of the project from the two largest potential users on the West Main extension – the mobile home park and the Reaps. The Manager explained that he had spoken to Cara LaBounty regarding the mobile home park and that the owner was interested and committed to a substantial amount of money, however, was concerned about the overall amount of money and equity in distribution of the costs. The Manager explained that he had spoken to the park owner, Peter Brown, and he confirmed that Cara LaBounty was authorized to speak on his behalf regarding this project.

The Manager said he also spoke to the Reaps and they continued to express interest in the proposal, however, they were also concerned about the costs of the project and the time it would take to implement the project. The Manager said he felt that the final connection costs would likely be more than what they are shown as in the draft report. Mr. Hill and Mr. Pochop spoke of the connection fees were according the existing policy. Mr. Granda asked if we could negotiate these costs?

The Manager also explained that he, Peter Pochop and Cara LaBounty had met with Jim Plouffe of USDA Rural Development about funding and grants. It was a good conversation that may lead to funding to reduce borrowing costs, however, there was quite a bit of work to do before then. There were some planning grants that looked promising, but one was already ruled out since then.

There was some discussion about the mobile home park, future units, existing conditions and how these were mentioned in the report. There was additional discussion on the details of the line extension and whether or not the Water Commission should move forward with additional work on this project.

Chris Fischer asked if Peter Brown should pay for the additional work. Mr. Hill said that it was important that we be cautious on how we approach this. The study should be owned by the town, but \$7,000 was small compared to the overall budget and it seemed to be an investment needed to get additional commitment on this. There was additional discussion on the risks and gains of moving forward, as well as discussion on how this should be paid for.

Mr. Hill offered a motion to approve Purchase Order 2474 to Green Mountain Engineering in an amount not to exceed \$7,000 for a Topographic Survey for the West Main extension. Mr. Granda seconded the motion, saying this money should come from reserve funds. The motion carried 5-0.

1 Mr. Hill offered a motion to request cost sharing assistance from the Richmond Selectboard due to the
2 general economic benefit of a successful project and was seconded by Mr. Sander. The motion carried
3 5-0.

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5 Mr. Sander asked about connections and the park and it was agreed it was necessary to have only one
6 connection and account, assessed to the park itself. Mr. Chamberlin noted that their connection fee
7 was based on flow, not number of connections. Mr. Pochop said that Mr. Brown had supplied his own
8 meter readings from his water source.

9

10 **Adjourn**

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12 Mr. Sander offered a motion to adjourn at 6:35 pm and was seconded by Mr. Hill. So voted.

DRAFT