

**RICHMOND WATER AND SEWER
COMMISSION MEETING
April 6, 2015 MINUTES**

Members Present: Bard Hill, Chair; David Sander; Lincoln Bressor; Robert Fischer

Members Absent: Bruce Bailey

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water Resources; Peter Pochop, Green Mountain Engineering; Brett Hamilton; Harold Irish; Ian Bender; Bob Reap; Joyce Wannamaker; Rod West; Gary Bressor; Christy Witters; Jack Linn; and Ruth Miller was present from MMCTV to tape the meeting.

Mr. Hill called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Welcome and Public Comment

Ms. Hill asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

West Main Utility Extension Update & Cost Sharing Request

Mr. Hill explained the progress of negotiations and that they were proceeding, with the next planned session for next week. The Manager requested some clarification from the board on their request to the Selectboard for cost sharing of the West Main extension up-front costs. Mr. Fischer said that on the extension, it would not be much advantageous to the system users, but would benefit more the town through economic development growth. Therefore, the town should pay for part or all of these soft costs. There was significant discussion on this point.

Mr. Hill summarized, and said that if we don't proceed with the project and the system is "out" this venture capital, then we will try to recover some of that investment from the Selectboard. The remaining members agreed on this policy.

Mr. Hill said that the costs incurred in planning needed to roll into the regular project. We won't pursue the project if it ends up costing the users. Mr. Fischer agreed, and said he wasn't asking for general help with the water system, but on this project.

Mr. Sander asked what if we don't pursue, how do we ask the town to chip in? Mr. Chamberlin suggested a percentage of the costs. There was additional discussion and then the topic turned to Green Mountain Engineering's discussion of the planning loans.

Mr. Pochop explained the planning loan applications to the State revolving loan fund for clean water and drinking water. There was discussion about how far this would go, and Mr. Pochop said they would stop if there wasn't any reason to complete the preliminary design. There was some discussion on this.

Sewage Treatment Facility and Capacity

Mr. Hill explained that recently there had been some concern that the treatment plant was in fact operating at capacity and the notion that we had surplus capacity was misleading to the public, and that they might have not supported the West Main bond question had they been aware of the restrictions. Mr. Hill had asked Mr. Chamberlin to prepare some response to this. Mr. Chamberlin went through a questions and answer sheet and answers to more specific questions from Gary

1 Bressor. Mr. Chamberlin went into some detail on flow capacity, biochemical oxygen demand
2 capacity and how these different limits were measured. The issue of taking in septage versus using
3 capacity to treat user-generated sewage was discussed. Mr. Chamberlin believed that septage was
4 more profitable in the short term but less reliable in the long term. Mr. Chamberlin said several times
5 that most other systems use septage to fund reserves and not operating or debt costs since user
6 revenue was more reliable.

7
8 Mr. Hill agreed and said the mission of our system should be to support the users of the town of
9 Richmond and protect the environment. It is not to service septage haulers, although that has been a
10 solution to the capacity issue that existed when the old creamery closed.

11
12 Mr. Chamberlin went through the impacts of the West Main project on flow and BOD capacity and
13 concluded that the plan would still have both available if the project was completed. There was some
14 discussion about phosphorus limits and how we're meeting them now. Mr. Chamberlin also noted
15 that an additional "blower" would increase our BOD capacity without significant capital expense. He
16 closed with the question, "how do we want to use our reserve capacity?"

17
18 Chris Fischer said it needs to be done on a first-come, first-serve basis. Mr. Hill said we wouldn't
19 likely decide this issue today, and Mr. Chamberlin noted that we should welcome industry here when
20 we can. The brewery is one example.

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22 Gary Bressor agreed that we needed to have that discussion. He asked should the users see the
23 benefit or should we give our capacity to the mobile home park?

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25 Mr. Hill said it was more complicated. Is the West Main project viable? Is any other project more
26 viable? Should our current users continue to pay higher rates while they wait for a different user to
27 come along for that reserve capacity?

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29 There was additional discussion on this topic but no further action was taken.

30 31 East Main Water Replacement

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33 The Manager explained the issue by saying that West Main and East Main are exclusive projects, not
34 at the expense of each other. West Main was by design intended to pay for its own debt and East
35 Main would be a different bond. He added that they were at the top of the state's priority list for
36 funding under the same loan that is providing the negative interest rate loan for the water storage
37 tank and this meant we needed another bond vote, soon. The line was already designed and
38 permitted and the budget impact of the bond payment was minimal.

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40 Mr. Hill requested detailed information on the costs. Mr. Pochop said it shouldn't be trouble to update
41 the estimates. Mr. Hill agendaized this for the next meeting.

42 43 Budget Discussions

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45 Mr. Hill requested we agendaize this at the next meeting.

46 47 Superintendent's Report

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49 Mr. Chamberlin said we should address the Centerbar account. The Manager explained that Mr.
50 Centerbar owns an apartment at 77 West Main, water account #740 and claimed he was being billed
51 for three units when he only had two. Water resources inspected and agreed he only had two
52 apartments in that building. Therefore, staff requested the allocation for account #740 be reduced
53 from three to two units and the prior quarter base charge for one unit refunded or credited to his
54 account.

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1 Mr. Hill offered a motion to amend account #740 to two units and refund one base unit for the prior
2 quarter and was seconded by Mr. Sander. The motion carried 4-0.

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4 Thawing cost reimbursements

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6 Mr. Chamberlin explained that we had several problems with freezing lines this past Winter, with
7 several frozen water services and a few frozen sewer services because of the forcemain at the end of
8 Cochran Road. The town had picked up the costs for thawing attempts and pumping sewage at a
9 certain point, however, there were prior costs that these users had and they were requesting
10 assistance with paying this. He noted that we had about \$3,000 in costs to the town so far and there
11 were about \$1,900 in reimbursement requests from users. There was additional discussion. Mr.
12 Chamberlin noted that we wanted to assist our users while they assist us in maintaining the system.

13
14 Mr. Hill offered a motion to approve reimbursement requests for failed thawing attempts not to exceed
15 \$6,000 and was seconded by Mr. Sander. The motion carried 4-0.

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17 Treatment Plant Maintenance: PO #2495 to Hartigan

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19 Mr. Chamberlin explained that since the treatment plan was upgraded nine years ago, an
20 accumulation of grit was found on the bottom of the tanks at the plant. He requested funds to have
21 Hartigan vacuum out this grit and maintain functioning of the plant.

22
23 Mr. Hill offered a motion to approve Purchase Order #2495 to Hartigan in the amount of \$7,986.00 to
24 vacuum grit from the wastewater treatment plant and was seconded by Mr. Sander and the motion
25 carried 4-0.

26
27 Stone Corral Brewery: Request for specific BOD capacity

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29 Mr. Chamberlin explained that the State would not provide a pre-treatment or wastewater permit to
30 the brewery until they were able to show they had a specific biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)
31 allocation figure from the town. Brett Hamilton, the brewer and owner, wanted a formal declaration of
32 reserve capacity for his use and showing the BOD loading. He required 50 pounds for his operation,
33 but requested 100 for his expansion in the future. Mr. Chamberlin noted the BOD load was 600
34 pounds per day. There was significant discussion about this, and the value of the system. All agreed
35 that the brewery was a nice business to have in town and the system should be accommodating.

36
37 Mr. Fischer offered a motion to approve an allocation of BOD of 100 lbs and was seconded by Mr.
38 Bressor. The motion carried 4-0.

39
40 **Adjourn**

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42 Mr. Sander offered a motion to adjourn at 7:05 pm and was seconded by Mr. Fischer. So voted.