

**RICHMOND WATER AND SEWER  
COMMISSION MEETING  
June 15, 2015 MINUTES**

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water Resources; Peter Pochop, Green Mountain Engineering; Robert Reap; Chris Fischer; Sheila Bailey; Maureen Kangley; and Ruth Miller was present from MMCTV to tape the meeting.

Mr. Hill called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

**Welcome and Public Comment**

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

**Water Storage Tank Update**

Mr. Pochop reported that he the contract was signed on June 11<sup>th</sup>, along with the first two change orders, leaving the current contracted amount at \$1,452,905. The preconstruction meeting was also held on the 11<sup>th</sup> and work would begin shortly. The schedule that was presented called for a December 25<sup>th</sup> end date, with landscaping and cleanup work continuing in the Spring of next year. There was an issue of a possible overnight road closure on Jericho Road to accommodate conduit and water line crossing work but it was not finally agreed upon. The pole relocation from Green Mountain Power would also happen prior to construction.

Mr. Bressor asked if they would really do seeding and matting in December. Mr. Pochop said that the seeding and matting would likely take place in November but final landscaping would happen in the Spring.

Mr. Fischer said we should notice the system about the pressure issues. Mr. Chamberlin agreed, and the board requested a map showing high pressure areas now, and which areas would see higher pressures when the new tank comes on line. Mr. Hill and Mr. Fischer said we should also notify people of this online with Front Porch Forum and website updates.

**East Main Street Update**

The Manager reported that the warning and ballot were approved last week at a special meeting of the Selectboard. These have been posted and will be warned accordingly. The Times Ink has the information that Mr. Hill prepared, and we can further discuss the issue tonight.

Mr. Hill elaborated on the notice that was going to the public. There was some discussion about why we were doing this, and why now. The board requested this information be placed on the website.

There was some discussion about the streetscape also, but it was noted that the Selectboard would need to take this up.

Mr. Bailey noted that there were 747 units listed but only 300 or so owners paying these bills, and people should remember that. Mr. Chamberlin said people needed to remember how vital this project was. With all the difficulties it was having, the higher pressures may lead to more water breaks here.

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2 Water Line Break of June 11<sup>th</sup>  
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4 Mr. Chamberlin explained that the water line broke at the entrance to the Sterling House facility. It  
5 was 100% due to a failed culvert beneath the line, which failed due to improper installation. He said  
6 the water line collapsed but the PVC material did not break, which showed it took quite a lot of abuse  
7 before finally failing.  
8

9 The Manager said that the issue of ownership of the culvert was not clear. This was clearly a private  
10 road and the culvert should be private but it may have been given to the town or the town may own it  
11 by default. They were checking more records. He said that the water line failure was tied to the  
12 culvert but the driveway failure was tied to the water line. For now, the access has been restored but  
13 not paved as it was before.  
14

15 The board discussed private structures and how to ensure that these failures wouldn't happen in the  
16 future. It was agreed that some sort of inspection was needed if we wanted to be sure that  
17 infrastructure that the town might own, one way or another, was installed correctly.  
18

19 Mr. Bailey offered a motion to request the Selectboard discuss a way to modify the zoning and  
20 subdivision regulations to include a provision for a mandatory inspection of private and public works  
21 improvements. Mr. Sander seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.  
22

23 Mr. Hill mentioned the other issue was the cost of the repair. If in fact the town owned the culvert, the  
24 Selectboard should discuss whether or not to reimburse the water system for the failed line.  
25

26 Mr. Bailey offered a motion to request the Selectboard entertain the notion that costs of the different  
27 infrastructure failures should be borne directly by those responsible for those failed areas. Mr.  
28 Bressor seconded the motion.  
29

30 Mr. Fischer said he didn't feel that the water system should pay for this repair and it should be  
31 whoever owned the culvert. The motion carried 5-0.  
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33 Mr. Chamberlin felt it was probably a \$5,000 job and he thanked Highway for use of the loader and  
34 road fill materials. Mr. Hill agreed that the cooperation worked well to handle the emergency.  
35  
36

37 Superintendent's Report  
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39 Mr. Chamberlin thanked the Highway Department for use of their loader for the water repair, which  
40 had been the focus of the past week.  
41

42 Purchase Orders  
43

44 Mr. Chamberlin reported that the Hartigan bill for removal of sand from the bottom of the water  
45 treatment tanks was substantially more due to an initial under estimation of the amount needed. The  
46 original purchase order was for \$7,996 but the full bill was now \$12,134.61.  
47

48 Mr. Sander offered a motion to amend Purchase Order #2495 to Hartigans for treatment plant  
49 cleaning, from \$7,996 to \$12,134.61. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.  
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51 Mr. Fischer asked if rain affected the plant at all. Mr. Chamberlin said some, but we don't have much  
52 infiltration. The storm sewers and sanitary sewers are separated. The board requested some maps  
53 of water lines, sewer lines and storm sewers in the next meeting.  
54  
55

1 Mr. Chamberlin presented his annual blanket purchase orders for emergency repairs and chemicals.

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3 Purchase Order #3124 was offered by Ms. Sander and seconded to Mr. Bailey. This was to  
4 Chittenden Solid Waste District for sludge disposal in the amount of \$60,000. The motion carried 5-0.

5  
6 Purchase Order #3125 was offered by Mr. Sander and seconded by Mr. Bressor. This was for  
7 miscellaneous emergency repairs not to exceed \$26,000. The motion carried 5-0.

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9 Purchase order #3126 was offered by Mr. Sander and seconded by Mr. Bressor. This was for various  
10 chemicals not to exceed \$56,100. The motion carried 5-0.

### 11 12 Budget Status

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14 The Board reviewed the budget status. It was noted that septage revenue was almost twice what  
15 was projected. Mr. Chamberlin explained that it was a record year for septage treatment. Mr.  
16 Bressor asked what we made in revenue from what we spent on treatment of septage? Mr.  
17 Chamberlin said we earned \$1 for every \$.50 we spent.

### 18 19 Approval of Minutes

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21 Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the minutes of May 18, 2015 as amended and was seconded  
22 by Mr. Bailey. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Mr. Bressor abstaining.

23  
24 Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the minutes of June 1, 2015 and was seconded by Mr. Bailey  
25 and the motion carried 5-0.

### 26 27 Warrants

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29  
30 Mr. Bressor noted one correction that needed to be made, to a Green Mountain Power bill. The  
31 Manager acknowledged that this would be corrected prior to final payment. The Warrants were  
32 approved and signed.

### 33 34 West Main Utility Extension

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36 Mr. Pochop reported that he was still working on the planning loan completion for this project, but had  
37 been given the go-ahead by the State to proceed with environmental and archaeological work.

38  
39 Mr. Hill asked how the income study was progressing? The Manager said that he had heard very  
40 little from Mr. Clark, but the first surveys had been mailed. There was some discussion about the  
41 surveys. Cara LaBounty explained what she had heard, and that the park residents were nervous  
42 about needing to pay for more. There was some discussion on how to increase responses.

43  
44 Mr. Hill said we needed to know the completed target and how close we were. He asked if we could  
45 have a meeting there about this issue? There was some additional discussion on how we might  
46 increase the response rate by having an informational meeting for the park, and that it should be  
47 formally discussed again at the next meeting.

### 48 49 Next Agenda

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51 Mr. Hill noted we should have reports on the culvert, system schematics, year-end financial reports,  
52 update on the Saks septic system, updates on the three large projects: West Main, East Main and  
53 the Water Storage Tank.

54

1 **Adjourn**

2  
3 Mr. Sander offered a motion to adjourn at 6:58 pm and was seconded by Mr. Bailey. So voted.

DRAFT