

**RICHMOND WATER AND SEWER
COMMISSION MEETING
January 19, 2016 MINUTES**

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

Members Absent: Robert Fischer

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water Resources; Alan Huizenga, Green Mountain Engineering and Cameron Thomas was present from MMCTV to tape the meeting.

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

Welcome and Public Comment

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

Water Storage Tank Update

Alan Huizenga of GME reported that the tank filled and was being tested for seepage. There was currently seepage at twice the allowable rate of 400 gallons per day. Some seeps were strong but others were self-sealing due to a concrete additive. The colder weather was demanding that back fill be placed around the tank, but the contractor, SD Ireland, wanted to try an epoxy injection to repair some of the larger seeps. Mr. Huizenga said the seepage was not uncommon and some is expected. There was a series of questions by the Commission, answered by Mr. Huizenga. Mr. Huizenga noted that the contractor wanted to get to substantial completion by the end of the month, which would then trigger the one-year warranty period.

Mr. Chamberlin said that the tank would need additional work in the Spring anyway, to coat the exterior. He urged the Commission to backfill now and see which seeps self-repair by Spring, and conduct other repairs now. His concern was cold weather affecting the ground around the tank, which was unprotected.

Mr. Hill asked how seepage would be calculated if the tank is in use? Mr. Huizenga said it would have to be taken out of service for two days. Mr. Chamberlin felt he might be able to supply the town via the well pump only for that period of time, if a hydrant was opened to allow venting.

Mr. Bailey asked what guarantee was there that this would not leak (worse) in twenty years? Mr. Huizenga said there was none, but there would always be some seepage.

There was additional discussion. The consensus of the board was to partially backfill to protect the tank's foundation and determine what repairs were necessary later in the Spring.

East Main Street

The Manager explained that Green Mountain Engineering was working on getting the permit to construct. He had received an email that afternoon from the state, detailing additional items required.

Mr. Huizenga said that the Agency of Transportation was going to allow an open-cut on Route 2, which was a less expensive way to install water and storm water crossings.

West Main Street

The Manager explained that the survey was still pending but he had direct-mailed fifty surveys to non respondents last week. He had spoken to Tom Clark, who was prepared to high-estimate the missing surveys in order to complete the process. There was some discussion on this, and Mr. Bressor objected to the survey being completed in this manner. Mr. Hill said that he felt the survey should be completed and we can decide whether to move forward or not afterwards. There was additional discussion, and Mr. Bressor said he would not support the results.

FY2017 Budget and Capital Plan

The Manager explained that the Commission had approved the draft budget for publication in the annual report, but there was still the issue of a final budget for the annual customer's meeting, and scheduling this meeting.

The board agreed that the annual customers meeting would be held on Thursday, May 19th at 7:00 PM in the Library if it were available, or else the Town Center meeting room.

There was additional discussion on the budget, focusing on the proposed 5% rate increase and additional funding of reserves.

Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the budget as presented for the annual customers meeting, and was seconded by Mr. Bailey and the motion carried 4-0.

Green Mountain Engineering Contract for East Main Street – Final & Construction

Mr. Huizenga explained the contract for final design, permitting and construction oversight and closeout for the East Main Street project. The cost was for \$99,622. Mr. Bressor offered a motion to approve the contract with Green Mountain Engineering for engineering oversight for the East Main Street project in the amount of \$99,622 and was seconded by Mr. Sander, and the motion carried 4-0.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Chamberlin reported that the Saks sewer issue was concluded appropriately. Mr. Chamberlin also reported he was having hardware problems with the SCADA system, and a replacement card was \$18,000. This was not immediately necessary but would probably need to happen soon. Mr. Chamberlin also reported that Bolton Valley septage may on occasion come to Richmond for processing as they undergo repairs.

Mr. Bressor said he wanted to speak about the sewer connection ordinance at the next meeting. He felt that the \$1,000 fine was unrealistic and problematic for compliance.

Approval of Warrants

There was a problem with the printing of the warrant, and it was not approved.

Next Agenda

Mr. Hill said we'd again talk about the three projects, and income survey, the annual meeting, approve minutes and warrants and talk about the sewer connection ordinance.

Adjourn

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