

**RICHMOND WATER AND SEWER
COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2017 MINUTES**

Members Present: Bard Hill; David Sander; Lincoln Bressor

Members Absent: Fran Huntoon; Bob Reap

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water Resources; and Ruth Miller 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 for any public comment but there was none.

West Main Street Update

The Manager explained that at the last meeting there was discussion on how to proceed with the West Main utility extension issue, but the discussion was still open.

Mr. Sander said the project hadn't yet achieved economic viability and the town was now sensitive to future projects.

Mr. Hill asked if there was a "bottom line" on the challenges to this project, meaning a point at which it either could or could not work. He noted that the mobile home park owner had not made any attempt to resume negotiations and the issue of how this project needed to work for both new and existing users was still unresolved.

Mr. Bressor said the Water Commission had spent time and dollars to get to this point and he wasn't interested in spending more of either. The Manager was asked how he felt.

The Manager explained that the project was initially began with the belief that a 45% federal subsidy would be available, however, that has turned out to not be the case and the town has only qualified for a subsidized interest rate on a federal loan. Without that grant, the financial end of it doesn't seem to work for anyone in Phases 1, 2 or 3, and while many people believe it could be done, no one is calling for it to be done. The Reaps are now proceeding with plans to develop their property in Phase 1 with on-site well and septic and while they probably would accommodate some sort of easement for public utilities, without Phase 1 participating financially, Phases 2 and 3 would need to carry that much more of the financial burden, making it even more unattractive.

Mr. Chamberlin said that this project's ranking for water on the State's revolving loan fund priority list was high, and the Water Commission should consider doing a water-only extension. He felt that the Reaps could use this because using private well has drawbacks for large projects. There was some discussion on this idea. The Commission asked to see a financial plan for this at the next meeting.

1 Budget Status

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3 The Manager reviewed the prior year budget, noting that the major issue was a \$40,000 shortfall in
4 septage revenue but that most of that was mitigated by a reduction in septage treatment and disposal
5 expenses. A current year report was also reviewed, but had some bugs because the Water and
6 Wastewater funds were now separated and reported individually – but the reports were difficult to read
7 because of inactive accounts still being shown.

8
9 Mr. Chamberlin noted that revenue from the prior year was good, meaning that the rates were
10 performing about as expected.

11
12 Superintendent's Report

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14 Mr. Chamberlin reported that the big item was the Buttermilk water and sewer project beginning this
15 week at the intersection of Jolina Court and Bridge Street. There would be some brief water
16 shutdowns beginning around 8:00 am but should just be on Railroad Street and Borden Street. Mr.
17 Chamberlin explained some about the project – with valving and a new hydrant included.

18
19 Mr. Chamberlin reported that septage revenue was down somewhat. He noted that Montpelier was
20 doing a septage study and preparing for a treatment plant upgrade to allow them to accept and treat
21 septage, creating more competition for Richmond.

22
23 Mr. Chamberlin reported that the repairs on the Water Tank had not been completed and he had been
24 relying on SD Ireland to come during warm weather to seal the tank and recoat some areas.

25
26 Mr. Hill asked in the long term, what would these leaks do? Mr. Bressor said maybe these leaks aren't
27 terrible now but we have a chance to get it right. Mr. Hill suggested the town get engineering advice
28 on how these leaks would affect the life of the structure.

29
30 This would be an ongoing topic.

31
32 Approval of Warrants

33
34 The warrant was approved.

35
36 Items for discussion at the next meeting:

37 West Main Utility Extension – Water Only

38 Upcoming Projects

39 Capital Plan

40 Water Tank Update

41
42 Adjourn

43
44 Mr. Bressor offered a motion to adjourn at 6:40 pm and was seconded by Mr. Hill. So voted.