

**RICHMOND WATER AND SEWER
COMMISSION MEETING
January 2, 2018 MINUTES**

Members Present: Fran Huntoon; Bard Hill; Bob Reap; David Sander

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water Resources; Alan Huizenga, Green Mountain Engineering; Mary Houle; Patty Brushette; and Ruth Miller was present from MMCTV to tape the meeting.

Ms. Huntoon called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Welcome and Public Comment

Ms. Huntoon asked for any public comment.

Patty Brushette asked about the West Main utility extension and asked if the criteria of no added cost to the current system was still the rule? She wanted to know the status of a possible connection to the mobile home park as well as the status of the bond approved in 2015. She asked if the project ever went back to the voters for any reason.

Mr. Hill responded that the commission has gone into detailed explanations for quite some time, and now there was not a clear way forward from an economic standpoint. The Water Commission had issued the RFP for a low-cost method to construct the extension for phases 1 and 2, but the State and federal agencies were interested in going to phase 3 which would provide some subsidized funding.

Ms. Brushette asked if the main goal was an economic one. Mr. Hill said years ago the system raised rates and there had been talks about commercial development as offering some solution. However, there were mixed opinions on the Gateway area and how to manage growth, especially since extending water and sewer lines would provide extra capacity to develop.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Chamberlin reported that the cold was notable and in some cases he had recommended certain homes trickle water, but there were no freeze-ups yet. The Blue Seal building was now on its new connection. The variable frequency mixer was now up and running on a new motor, and the department was monitoring the Cumberland Farms project. He offered some suggestions to improve the landscaping at the water tank, and he was aware of recent complaints. He offered to have a plan in place to address this in the Spring.

Alan Huizenga of Green Mountain Engineering explained that there was a warranty inspection in the Fall and the contractor had argued that "aggressive growth" of the grass had choked the plantings, thus not their responsibility. Green Mountain Engineering had admitted to not using a landscape professional on the planting scheme, however, they couldn't argue. The grass is a much better stabilizing solution but something larger can be added. Mr. Chamberlin noted he was disappointed that the contractor never came back on the plantings.

1 Mr. Chamberlin noted that a recent ISO inspection had come back with a positive result. They had
2 measured the fire flow capacity. There was some discussion as to whether or not the middle school
3 was sprinklered and to what extent, but no one knew the answer and Mr. Chamberlin would find out.
4

5 Contract with Green Mountain Engineering for Bridge Street water line work
6

7 The Manager explained that for the proposed Bridge Street water line work the preliminary
8 engineering report needed to be updated and the final engineering completed and permitted. Green
9 Mountain Engineering had prepared a contract for this work, at a cost of \$21,210.
10

11 There was some discussion on the urgency and deadlines to complete the revolving loan fund
12 applications. It was agreed that this contract could wait until we determined if the State would find
13 the amendment acceptable in terms of the preliminary engineering report.
14

15 Mr. Chamberlin suggested bonding for all of the Bridge Street work at once, and not limiting the issue
16 to the two projects at hand. The board asked Mr. Huizenga to prepare a full cost estimate for the
17 Bridge Street work recommended under the PER.
18

19 Approval of Warrants

20
21 The warrant was approved.
22

23 Items for discussion at the next meeting, start at 5:30

24 Superintendent's Report

25 Budget & Capital Plan

26 West Main Street Update

27 Bridge Street Water estimate
28

29 Adjourn

30
31 Mr. Sander offered a motion to adjourn at 6:35 pm and was seconded by Mr. Hill. So voted.