

**RICHMOND WATER AND SEWER
COMMISSION MEETING
May 21, 2018 MINUTES**

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water Resources; and Ruth Miller was present from MMCTV to tape the meeting.

Ms. Huntoon opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Welcome and Public Comment

Ms. Huntoon asked for any public comment, but there was none.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Chamberlin reported that septage receipts were going up, likely due to good weather and folks getting their systems maintained. He received an estimate to repair the flat rubber roof on one of his buildings, and some had recommended replacing the entire roof and possibly the insulation. The roof was maybe 13 years old, but might be older on this section. He was required to obtain a new pH meter and some other small equipment but received a positive review of the wastewater plant, and ready for the new permit.

On June 12th, the well was scheduled to be inspected. The tank slope repair cost \$3,900 and the asset management program was moving forward and he might explore what Hinesburg has been doing to see if it helped efficiency.

He then spoke about septage and his outreach and schedule modifications in an effort to keep intake high.

Sprinkler Systems – inspections and fees

Mr. Chamberlin reviewed his research on sprinklers and fees. There had been recent suits in Florida and Michigan regarding annual sprinkler fees. The concern was charges for water used for inspections and the value of sprinklers to the municipalities. Since sprinklers needed unimpeded flow, they were often not metered. The use of annual testing water was part of the reason behind an annual fee.

Mr. Hill did not see annual sprinkler fees as an economic issue for the system here. Without the reservoir, there would be no storage of water for sprinklers, and no lower fire rates without sprinklers and the reservoir. There was no concern over water loss here, but an economic benefit to having sprinklers for the customer.

Mr. Sander said he needed a rational reason to charge an annual fee, not just because we can. This might discourage sprinklers.

Mr. Hill stated we need more research on how this issue is typically handled in Vermont. Did VLCT have a perspective, or Burlington?

1 **Annual Customer Meeting**

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3 The Manager reminded everyone that the annual customer meeting would be on May 22nd at 6:00 pm
4 in the Town Center Meeting room. The agenda was reviewed.

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6 **Budget Status**

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8 The budget status was reviewed.

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11 **Approval of Warrants**

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13 The Warrants were reviewed and approved.

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15 **Next Agenda**

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17 Tank Landscaping, rates, sprinkler line fees and inspections.

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19 **Adjourn**

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21 Ms. Witters offered a motion to adjourn at 6:50 pm and was seconded by Mr. Hill. So voted.
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