

RICHMOND WATER & SEWER EXPANSION VOTE

DECEMBER 7, 2021 6:30 PM CAMELS HUMP MIDDLE SCHOOL

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Moderator Clint Buxton, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Buxton reviewed the proceedings of the minutes per Robert's Rules. Linda Parent, Town Clerk read the warning and article for consideration this evening. Buxton repeated the reading of the article.

Original Article 1: Shall the users of the Richmond Water & Sewer approve the expansion of the existing Water & Sewer District to from the terminus of the system at Baker Street & West Main Street along VT Route 2 west to the Winooski River, along Governor Peck Highway to the Jericho town line, Route 117, also known as River Road, to the Jericho town line and Rogers Lane to the Jericho town line, including the Riverview Commons Mobile Home Park?

YES

NO

Article 1 was moved by Rod West, second by Alan Oliver, for discussion.

Josh Arneson, Town Manager presented a power point explanation of the proposed sewer extension project.

There were many comments and questions from the audience. Many of them repeated questions & comments asked by others. First round of comments & questions:

Jon Kart, present user: asking if connections would be required if the pipes are extended in front of homes/ businesses...YES

Duane Bleau, proposed user: questioned the extent that the Sewer Commission contacted the residents of the project in the proposed area and he believed that the Commission was using the inclusion of Riverview Commons as a pathway to apply for low income housing for financial opportunities, without doing due diligence for information given to the Riverview Commons & Governor Peck Highway residents.

Kim Robtoy, proposed user: questioned the use of Riverview Commons as a pathway for low income financing, stated that Riverview Commons had an

existing acceptable water & sewer system that the residents were paying for in their monthly lot rent. She believed this extension would be a way to lower the rates of present users on the back of the proposed users.

David Sander, Water Commissioner: Riverview Commons would be one hook up & the management would be responsible for connecting to each resident.

Nicole Bleau, proposed user: stated that the residents in Riverview Commons were mostly living on limited income and could not afford the proposed development.

Gary Bressor, existing user: asked if the proposed users would be required to pay for the new extension lines - that the non-users would not be paying for this project - YES

Rod West, proposed user: Commented that the current municipal sewer system is under used and not being used to it's capacity, municipal sewer would increase property values, availability of municipal sewer/water could result in more affordable housing to be built in that area.

Kristen Hayden-West, proposed user: asked for consideration from others for the residents that wished to connect to the public system

Paul Hauf, existing user: it would a good option to hook on the system for those in the proposed area if their private septic systems failed

Josh Arneson, Town Manager: residents would have 90 days to hook up once the lines were installed. The water commission could be able to extend that hook on date.

Michael Parent, existing user: could the article 1 be amended by those present to exclude the area that residents are not interested in participating

Bard Hill, Water Commissioner & existing user: announced that the article could be amended to exclude the area past the interstate, if those present agreed

Ken Cassidy, proposed user: asked who would be responsible for the installation of lines and hook ups to homes in Riverview Commons, how long would it take to restore the lawns, ect and who would be doing that work.

Linda Parent, Town Clerk: explained that the line would be only one hook up to Riverview Commons, the management of the park would be responsible for all work & repairs within Riverview Commons

David Healy, existing user: inquired about the economic ratification of the project & questioned if procedures had been set for that part of the project

Marshall Paulsen, existing user: asked for a description of the mentioned 3 phases of the project.

Linda Parent, Town Clerk: Phase 1 of the project was from the terminus on West Main Street to Willis Farm Road, aka the Reap property

Phase 2 extended from the Reap property along Route 2 to the Mobile Station aka 1436 West Main Street

Phase 3 was extending past the Mobile Station to Governor Peck Highway to the town line, Riverview Commons, Rte 117 to the town line and Rte 2 to the Winooski River bridge

Gretchen Paulsen, existing user: suggested that residents attend regular meetings of the water/sewer commission to learn about the projects, instead of waiting to express their concerns at the time of the vote.

Michael Parent, existing user & Lucas Cady, proposed user, made the following amendment to Article 1:

<p>“Shall the voters residing within the Water and Sewer District as it is proposed to be expanded approve the expansion of the Town’s Water and Sewer District westerly along West Main Street to 1436 West Main Street (Mobile Station)?</p>
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Motion to approve acceptance of this amendment was moved by Lucas Cady, second by Larry Vigneault to accept this amendment. So passed by majority of those present & eligible to vote.

Becky Vigneault called the question, second by Jake Marin, to vote on the amended article. So passed by majority of those present & eligible to vote.

Cecilia Danks, existing user: thanked Josh for his detailed presentation

Jay Furr, Water Commissioner announced that this date was David Sander's 25th wedding anniversary.

Jon Kart thanked the board for their many years of work on this project.

Bruce Bailey asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941.

Mary Ann Barnes moved, second by Jake Marin, to adjourn the meeting at 8 pm. So moved.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M Parent, Town Clerk

Those present representing the Town of Richmond:

Josh Arneson, Town Manager

Bard Hill, Water Commissioner and Selectboard

David Sander, Water Commissioner & Selectboard

Jay Furr, Water Commissioner & Selectboard

June Heston, Selectboard

Fran Huntoon, Water Commissioner

Greg Tucker, Water Commissioner

Clint Buxton, Town Moderator

Linda Parent Town Clerk

Kendall Chamberlin, Water Superintendent

Ruth Miller, filming for MMCTV

Justices of the Peace: Marshall Paulsen, Francis Churchill, Carole Furr, Ed Gallo, Mary Houle, Sue Pochop, Spike Robinson, Becky Vigneault

Election water sewer extension vote /doc/lp