

Town of Richmond Water and Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2022

Members Present: Jay Furr, Bard Hill, David Sander, Fran Huntoon

Members Absent: Greg Tucker

Staff Present: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water and Wastewater Superintendent; Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town Manager; Aaron Krymkowski, Lead Mechanical Operator

Others Present: The meeting was recorded for MMCTV. Bob Reap, Brian Currier, Tom F

Call to Order: 6:00pm

Welcome by: Sander

Public Comment:

Sander: Moment of silence and recognition for Geoff Urbanik

Huntoon: Great to see Richmond Water & Sewer not getting boil notices like Burlington

Sander: Lines don't break as much as they used during the cold weather. Well worth the bond investment. Thanks Kendall to get money into the infrastructure.

Consideration of approval of preliminary water and sewer allocation for RR0160 and RR0198

Arneson: This is for new development off of Railroad Street. Future home of the Richmond Market. Allocation of 1,507 gallons of wastewater and water per day. Extension of 60 days to 6 months for final request. Looking at current allocations so might end up being less. Brian Currier is here to represent.

Sanders: Clarify that this is proceed with permits and that the final amounts might change.

Hill moved to approve preliminary water and wastewater allocations for RR0160 and RR0198 and to allow for up to 6 months to request final allocation approval. Second by Huntoon

Roll Call Vote: Hill, Huntoon, Furr, Sander in favor. Motion passed.

Discussion of feedback from attorney and Vermont League of Cities and Towns regarding the use of actual flows to calculate bond payback

Arneson: Feedback from attorney and VLCT in Gateway district. Intention is to use permitted flows in the beginning of bond payment then use actual flows later. Bond payback will then be adjusted. Still need to go thru the same process. It is not advisable for actual flows. Had discussions with attorney and still need to figure out how to do bond payout as we cannot base the payback on flows.

Hill: After 7 years of discussion frustrated to get to the fork in the road. What is permissible and viable? Where do we go from here for bond payback?

Sander: Suggests a breakout group with the attorneys. How did we get here and where do we go from here?

Hill: We may add water to this expansion. Could we use flows to determine payback of the bond for a water expansion?

Huntoon: My understanding is we to figure out a different way

Chamberlin: Confused about message from attorney. My understanding is that you can only have 1 water/sewer district. But they are saying we have to do a separate assessment.

Sander: More than a couple of things that don't make sense

Hill: Need clearance from attorney about legal parameters of water, or water with sewer? What are legal parameters. What is best course forward? How do we get people to sign up for a system where we don't know what the cost is? Yet we are still debating what the cost structure will be.

Arneson: Who volunteers to join a Zoom call with the attorney?

Hill: It is challenging for me to join with legislature in session

Sander: I could do Thursday or Friday

Huntoon: I am unable to do daytime meetings

Furr: I am willing to be in that meeting.

Arneson: Will check with attorney about a possible meeting on Thursday or Friday

Furr: Why is flow not an option?

Hill: Some options are Grand List Value or Road Frontage. Grand List Value seems more connected to usage.

Furr: Both approaches have benefits but still need clarification. Compelling argument for either approaches.

Sander: Any other feedback before we meet with attorney for clarification? None, so we will move on.

Review of engineer's estimates for cost to construct wastewater and water lines extensions in the Gateway

Arneson: GME (Green Mountain Engineering) who gave estimate is now closing the business (Feb 18th). Tyler Billingsley is catching up so that things are still moving forward.

Sander: Any advice from GME on who to contract going forward?

Chamberlin: Tyler is in communication with GME about making a smooth transition. Both groups are receptive. Steve does not seem interested past the Feb 18th date but will try to communicate. This may change in the next week or so. Hope to work with Steve and Ben to keep the transition going.

Hill: Does GME have possession of documents that we might need for future reference?

Chamberlin: Yes, and Ben and Steve will be around to help out for transition to new company. The best shape we could be in.

Arneson: How big should we build system? \$968,720 for current maximum flow expansion our wastewater treatment plan could handle. See estimates to extend out to Mobil station.

Water, Wastewater Specs

-12 inch line enough pressure for fire flows & sprinklers = \$1,599,800.

-8 inch line some sprinklers but no estimate yet -

-4 inch line for not providing fire protection = \$704,015

Plus additional Act 250 permit fees

Chamberlin: Memo explains it well.

Sander: Surprised the increased price in just diameter of pipe. Thought it was mostly labor and excavating.

Arneson: Directional boring costs create bigger differences in installing larger pipes.

Hill: Isn't a lot of this due to sprinkler pressure and fire hydrants versus just residential/commercial?

Huntoon: 8 inch line would allow for fire hydrants.

Chamberlin: Should not consider anything less than an 8 inch

Sander: Where is the boring in that line?

Huntoon: Sewer is on one end of Rt 2 and the water is other.

Hill: If we provide fire protection it is a bigger discussion.

Sander: Conversations need to be had in regards to impact of putting a fire hydrant by interstate where it would be in demand.

Hill: A lot of fire trucks would fill up closer to the interstate rather than come into town.

Chamberlin: It is important to decide if you provide fire protection. It would potentially reduce fire insurance. Easy to do 4" if not providing fire protection.

Review of FY22 second quarter financial reports

Arneson: Looking pretty much on track. Salaries about 50%. Delinquencies are down, people keeping up with payments. Revenue trending upward.

Superintendent Report (Chamberlin): Mixer fail inside reservoir needs to be replaced. Surprising as only expected to last 6 years which is crazy because you need a diver to replace. Looking into a solar mixer. \$30-50,000 to replace mixer.
Phosphorus sampling project continuing for sampling at different parts of plant
Both furnaces have been services or fixed.
Aluminum tank also repaired
Work on meters & customer service
Cleaned out all hydrants. Thanks for those residents who help clean up around their properties.
More than 7 positions needed for wastewater personnel around area.

Huntoon: Put in Front Porch Forum reminders about cleaning out fire hydrants. Shout out to the awesome customers who did so. Might be incentive for others to help out too!

Hill: Workforce issue is wide & deep. Never seen it like this before.

Warrants, Minutes and Purchase Orders

*Furr moved to approve Jan 18 minutes. Huntoon seconded
Roll Call Vote: Hill, Huntoon, Furr, Sander in favor. Motion passed.*

*Furr moved to approve the warrants that were presented. Huntoon seconded
Roll Call Vote: Hill, Huntoon, Furr, Sander in favor. Motion passed.*

Items for next agenda:

- _Clarification from attorney on flows*
- _Follow up discussion of water expansion*
- _Questions on Financial Reports*
- _Meet again on Feb 14th at 6 pm to review the water expansion*

Adjournment

*Huntoon moved to adjourn. Seconded by Furr
Roll Call Vote: Hill, Huntoon, Furr, Sander in favor. Motion passed.*

Meeting adjourned at 6:39 pm

Chat file from Zoom:

None