

**RICHMOND WATER AND SEWER
COMMISSION MEETING
January 22, 2013 MINUTES**

Members Present: Ashley Lucht; Chris Granda (arrived 6:25); Amy Lord; Harold Irish; Bruce Bailey

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Kendall Chamberlin, Richmond Water/Sewer Superintendent; Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Sheila Bailey; Peter Pochop, Green Mountain Engineering; George Gifford; and Ruth Miller was present from MMCTV to tape the meeting.

Chair Lucht called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1. Public Comment

Ms. Lucht asked for comments from the public but there were none.

Preliminary Engineering Report: Water Storage Tank

Peter Pochop of Green Mountain Engineering presented his report on the preliminary engineering on a replacement water storage tank. The existing tank was last inspected in 2010 and found to have significant rust inside, and some damage to the ice-line. Kendall Chamberlin noted that the existing tank was built in 1969 and only meant to last twenty years. Mr. Pochop said that he, Kendall Chamberlin, Ashley Lucht and Geoffrey Urbanik met to discuss options for replacement. It appeared that the tank was reaching a critical time where risk of failure was a pressing concern. Additionally, the size of the tank was too small for ISO fire insurance ratings, and the water pressure was too low at the schools and several homes at the top of the hill. Therefore, the new tank was needed to increase water storage for firefighting capacity and higher pressure to meet state mandated minimums.

Mr. Pochop noted that the new elevation required was 45 feet above the current elevation, to provide adequate pressure. The current usage requirement was about 80,000 gallons per day with an estimated growth of up to 100,000 gallons per day.

Mr. Pochop reviewed three types of tanks, a buried concrete tank, a concrete above-ground tank and an above-ground glass-fused steel tank. The locations could be on the current site, or off-site further up Jericho Road. The preferred tank was a buried concrete tank in the new off-site location. This option had a cost estimate of \$1,223,332. The second recommendation was a pre-cast concrete above ground tank on the current site, which would cost \$1,832,532.

Ms. Lucht asked if there could be the opportunity to split the cost between the water users and the town. She preferred the first option. She noted she had the 2010 tank inspection report and the video of inside.

Bruce Bailey said obviously we had to have a tank, but we're digging a deep hole with these projects. The budget indicated a big rate increase, and now we have the tank issue. At his house, if we couldn't afford it we don't spend it. Maybe the tank should take priority, and other projects should be stopped until this is dealt with.

Ms. Lucht said this needs to be a priority for the town as a whole.

1 Mr. Bailey said that we need to avoid a tank failure, and not worry about expanding service. There
2 was additional discussion.

3
4 Mr. Granda asked what the failure modes were. Mr. Pochop said that the inspection company might
5 do that, it was not analyzed by GME. Mr. Chamberlin added that there were no guarantees with the
6 work they performed, and that the tank needed to be replaced.

7
8 Ms. Lucht pressed the board on the off-site location.

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10 Sheila Bailey asked what would Mr. Chamberlin recommend, and Mr. Chamberlin said that he
11 preferred the buried tank in the off-site location.

12
13 George Gifford asked if there were grants for this, and Ms. Lucht said no. She works for the State and
14 with towns across Vermont in these matters and there are only low-interest loans for these projects.

15
16 Mr. Granda asked if the term of financing would be affected by the type of tank. There was some
17 discussion over how to finance, over twenty years or forty years.

18
19 Mr. Granda offered a motion to direct staff and Green Mountain Engineering to explore the first
20 recommended alternative as outlined in the Preliminary Engineering Report and was seconded by Mr.
21 Bailey. The motion carried 5-0.

22
23 Jackie Washburn Sewer Allocation

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25 The Manager presented Sewer Allocation application 13-01 from Jackie Washburn for preliminary
26 and final sewer allocation for 71 Huntington Road. The request was for an additional 40 gallons per
27 day. Mr. Bailey offered a motion to approve preliminary and final allocation and was seconded by
28 Mr. Granda, and the motion carried 5-0.

29
30 Fees for Water Meters

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32 Mr. Chamberlin explained that the current fee for water meters was set at \$150, although the meters
33 the town was using had increased to \$212. Mr. Chamberlin requested an amendment to the fees as
34 follows:

35		
36	5/8" and 3/4" meters	\$250
37	1" meter	\$350
38	Other	At cost

39
40 Mr. Bailey offered a motion to approve the new fees for purchase of water meters and was seconded
41 by Mr. Granda and the motion carried 5-0.

42
43 FY2014 Budget

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45 There was some explanation about salaries and benefits. The Manager reported that the salary was
46 what was actually required by staffing levels, although a new hire may come in slightly lower. The
47 change in benefits was due to an employee leaving who opted out of benefits. The opt-out represented
48 a 50% savings on a two person plan. Therefore, \$7,400 was taken out and \$14,000 was put into health
49 benefits.

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1 The majority of changes were to the capital and debt spending.
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3 There was discussion of septage receiving rates, currently at \$.05 per gallon. Mr. Chamberlin noted
4 that this was a competitive business and if we tried to increase rates we'd lose a lot of business to our
5 competitors.
6
7 There was some discussion about spreading solids on agricultural land. Mr. Chamberlin said we were
8 a class B facility and spreading required a Class A facility and we weren't going to make those extra
9 improvements required.
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11 There was discussion about spending, and the large rate increase projected.
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13 Mr. Granda offered a motion to approve the budget as presented and was seconded by Ms. Lord.
14
15 Mr. Irish asked if we needed three employees, and Mr. Chamberlin said yes, with our facility and its
16 capabilities minimum staffing was three.
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18 The motion carried 3-1-1 with Mr. Irish voting against and Mr. Bailey abstaining.

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20 Warrants

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22 The warrants were approved and signed.

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24 Approval of Minutes

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26 Mr. Bailey offered a motion to approve the minutes of December 17, 2012 and was seconded by Ms.
27 Lord. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Mr. Irish abstaining.

28 **2. Adjourn**

29 Motion by Mr. Irish to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Bailey. So voted.