

**RICHMOND WATER AND SEWER
COMMISSION MEETING
April 15, 2013 MINUTES**

Members Present: Ashley Lucht; Chris Granda; Amy Lord; Harold Irish; Bruce Bailey
Members Absent: None
Others Present: Kendall Chamberlin, Richmond Water/Sewer Superintendent; Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Linda Parent, Town Clerk; Harriet Riggs; Peter Pochop, Green Mountain Engineering; Maureen Kangley; 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

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

Ms. Lucht asked for comments from the public.

Maureen Kangley stated that she was a water user, and wanted to report that the two most precious things were to give children clean water and peace. Ms. Kangley displayed a poster objecting to the use of drones.

Superintendents Report

Mr. Chamberlin said that there was a water leak on Cochran Road that was repaired. There were some minor equipment malfunctions that were being repaired. Mr. Chamberlin wanted to talk about several large delinquencies, over \$1,000. He said that at this level people had difficulty paying, and wanted to make payment plans. A payment plan policy was discussed including a written agreement and maximum timeframe in which to repay.

Mr. Bailey said that someone might need a year to repay. There was discussion on this. Ultimately the board agreed that for delinquencies less than \$3,000 then six months was the maximum payback time and for delinquencies of more than \$3,000 twelve months was the maximum payback time. This would not apply to commercial accounts who would still be required to pay immediately, before the end of the current fiscal year, or else face shutoff.

Ms. Kangley wanted to know that if people weren't paying their water bill now, how would they be able to pay the delinquency and the current amount.

Marvin Carpenter Billing

The Manager reported that Marvin Carpenter again requested an abatement of his charges due to a water leak last year. Mr. Chamberlin said that Mr. Carpenter had been warned that his meter had frozen before and was in a location where it was vulnerable. Mr. Irish added that several other accounts who had water issues were made to pay the associated sewer charges by the town. Ms. Lucht said the town specifically did not make an exception for the Fire Department several months ago. The consensus of the board was that Mr. Carpenter's request was denied.

1 Dan Noyes - All Five Services - Account 2590

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3 Mr. Chamberlin reported that Mr. Noyes wished to cancel this account. He had been holding the
4 water allocation for future development but has now determined that it is not needed, and wished to
5 return the allocation and cancel the account. The board accepted Mr. Noyes' request.

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7 Water Tank

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9 Peter Pochop of Green Mountain Engineering explained that the committee exploring the tank had
10 researched the off-site location and contacted property owners in the Hillside Lane/Jericho Road area
11 and spoken with several neighbors. There appeared to be a possible location on a site shared by three
12 neighbors in this area.

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14 Mr. Bailey asked if the town had any idea of what the land cost would be? Mr. Pochop said that he
15 would need to discuss a survey and appraisal with the neighbors. Ms. Lucht explained that this turned
16 out to be the best possible site, due to proximity to the current tank, elevation, and overall impact to
17 neighbors. However, this was also the site for the shared septic. This would have to be negotiated in
18 order for a sale to occur but the residents were interested in seeing what could be done.

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20 Water Rates

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22 Ms. Lucht explained that the rate committee of herself, Bruce Bailey, Ann Cousins, Harriet Riggs,
23 Catherine Coggio, Todd Liberty, Kendall Chamberlin and the Manager had met twice to discuss rate
24 revisions and the needs to do so. The committee had agreed to modify the number of base units to an
25 equivalent residential unit of 510 and reset all allocations. This would slightly increase water rates,
26 but eliminate excess allocations that would prove to be unreliable and make the billing more equitable
27 among users. They also agreed that septage should only be used to fund sewer rates and reserve
28 funding was a priority. This would accomplish two goals: the first would be to fund capital reserves
29 and the second would allow a cushion between revenue dips and cuts to operations.

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31 Mr. Bailey said that the town needed to be careful on how much we save and we shouldn't over burden
32 customers for the sake of reserves. He added that the Depot Street water line, water tank and there
33 was a limited number of customers to pay for these improvements. Ms. Lucht agreed but said that
34 these improvements absolutely were needed.

35 There was additional discussion. Ms. Lucht noted that the group would again meet this Thursday at
36 4pm.

37 Water Customers Meeting Announcement

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39 Ms. Lucht announced that the annual customers meeting would be on Thursday, May 16th at 6:00 pm.
40 If there were more than 100 people then a new location would be found, however, it was not
41 anticipated that so many would attend.

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43 Approval of Minutes of March 21, 2013

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45 Mr. Granda offered a motion to approve the minutes of March 21, 2013 and was seconded by Ms.
46 Lord and the motion carried 3-0-2 with Mr. Irish and Mr. Bailey abstaining.

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1 Warrants

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3 The warrants were reviewed and approved. It was agreed that the next month's warrants would be
4 reviewed by Ms. Lord.
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6 **2. Adjourn**

7 Motion by Mr. Granda to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Lord. So voted.