

**RICHMOND WATER AND SEWER  
COMMISSION MEETING  
December 15, 2014 MINUTES**

Members Present: Bard Hill, Chair; David Sander; Chris Granda; Bruce Bailey; Bob Fischer

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager, Kendall Chamberlin, Water Resources; Peter Pochop, Green Mountain Engineering; Maureen Kangley; Sheila Bailey; Harold Irish; Robert and Joy Reap; Heidi Bormann; Gary Bressor; Gary Grzywna; Bret Hamilton; Mary Houle and Ruth Miller was present from MMCTV to tape the meeting.

Mr. Hill called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Hill asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to speak, but there were none.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Chamberlin reported that over the weekend the treatment plant had nine separate power outages from the snowstorm. A variable frequency drive on sewage pump failed and would be replaced at a cost of \$1,000 to \$2,000. He thanked those residents who helped shovel clear fire hydrants.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the minutes of October 20, 2014 and was seconded by Mr. Bailey and the motion carried 4-0-1 with Mr. Granda abstaining.

Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the minutes of November 3, 2014 and was seconded by Mr. Bailey and the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2014 and was seconded by Mr. Granda and the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the minutes of December 1, 2014 and was seconded by Mr. Bailey and the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the minutes of December 5, 2014 and was seconded by Mr. Granda and the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Warrants

The warrants were approved.

Approval of Additional Water Allocation for Account #1760

This was a request to increase the water allocation for account #1760, owned by Bormann, to accommodate a possible brewer – the Stone Corral. Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the request from Bormann to increase the water allocation on account #1760 from 450 gallons per day to 600 gallons per day and was seconded by Mr. Bailey. Brett Hamilton, the brewer, was present to discuss his plans. The board welcomed his business to Richmond and the motion carried 5-0.

Complaint from Gary Bressor

1 The Board heard a complaint from Gary Bressor that he was ready to connect his new water service  
2 to the main on Thompson Road but was told by Water Resources Staff that the line was PVC pipe,  
3 but it turned out to be transite and his connection hardware was not compatible. This cost him a  
4 delay and he had to pay someone for their time, which would have to be repeated.

5  
6 There was some discussion. The board indicated that the incorrect information from staff contributed  
7 to the delay. The board asked Mr. Bressor to provide an accounting of his costs and would make a  
8 decision on any reimbursement at the next meeting.

#### 9 10 West Main Extension Update

11  
12 The Manager updated the board on the progress of the West Main extension. Green Mountain  
13 Engineering was proceeding with their topographical survey. The Selectboard was going to have a  
14 discussion on how to connect the new line at the January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

15  
16 Mr. Granda said this project didn't make sense without the mobile home park. He said that if the  
17 mobile home park did not come on board, then we should not make a heavy-handed move against  
18 other potential users in the Gateway. There was discussion on this.

19  
20 Mr. Hill said that this was moving beyond an update and into a discussion, which should be held on  
21 January 5<sup>th</sup>. There should be a joint session with the Water Commission and the Selectboard on this  
22 subject at that time. The rest of the board agreed to advertise a joint meeting at 6:30 pm on January  
23 5, 2015 for discussion of the West Main extension.

24  
25 Gary Gryzwna asked who would pay for this line? He was not in favor of taxpayers subsidizing this  
26 line.

#### 27 28 Economic Benefits of Fire Protection

29  
30 Mr. Hill referred everyone to his December 1<sup>st</sup> handout where he illustrated some concepts of fire  
31 protection and costs directly related to the production and delivery of the water. This showed a  
32 profile of some of the Richmond Fire Department costs, and the Water Resources costs. The  
33 suggested value of the water supplied for fire protection was an additional \$11,570 over the \$1,500  
34 that was already included. Mr. Chamberlin said that on a \$200,000 home, this was an additional  
35 \$5.00 per year in taxation.

36  
37 Gary Gryzwna asked how come the fire department doesn't bill for services. There was a discussion  
38 on this. Mr. Hill said we would ask Chief Levesque but that wasn't part of this discussion.

39  
40 Mr. Chamberlin said that the fire department needs this water to do their job, so it should be realized  
41 as a cost for the town to do that job.

42  
43 Mr. Sander offered a motion to request that the Selectboard increase the Fire Department Water  
44 budget by \$11,570 and was seconded by Mr. Granda.

45  
46 Mr. Granda said if we really feel this is the right thing to do, we should look at revenues also. Mr. Hill  
47 said that legally, we can establish a fee that the town is obligated to pay. Mr. Granda clarified that the  
48 Water Commission does not establish how the Fire Department should be able to pay.

49  
50 Mr. Chamberlin said that the actual fee should be 5% of the water budget. Gary Gryzwna asked if the  
51 Selectboard would be able to find a way to pay for this fee?

52  
53 There was a discussion on fire insurance and if they would be able to pay. Joy Reap was concerned  
54 if we billed that someone would be afraid to call 911 for a fire. It was clarified that the billing would be  
55 similar to an emergency response by an ambulance and insurance would be billed, not the resident.

1  
2 The motion carried 5-0.

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4

5 **Adjourn**

6  
7 Mr. Sander offered a motion to adjourn at 7:00 pm and was seconded by Mr. Bailey. So voted.

DRAFT