

**RICHMOND WATER AND SEWER  
COMMISSION MEETING  
September 2, 2014 MINUTES**

Members Present: Ashley Lucht, Chair; Bard Hill; David Sander (arrived 6:30); Bruce Bailey; Bob Fischer

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager, Kendall Chamberlin, Water Resources; Sheila Bailey; Chris Fischer; Connie Doherty, Finance Assistant; Harold Irish; Peter Pochop, Green Mountain Engineering; Sam Beall; Eric Wood; Maureen Kangley and Ruth Miller was present from MMCTV to tape the meeting.

Ms. Lucht called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Ms. Lucht asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to speak but there were none.

Richmond Terrace Water Meter

Sam Beall of Richmond Terrace was present to discuss with the board the water meter issue. Mr. Chamberlin said his staff had investigated and concluded that the known entry point to the building was the only entry point for water and therefore the meter could be moved inside without loss of metered water. However, Mr. Chamberlin said he was concerned that the service line was obviously older PVC material and that should it leak, detecting it would be difficult if not impossible. Under the current configuration, leaks are metered and there is an incentive for the landowner to fix them to avoid high water charges.

Mr. Fischer noted Mr. Chamberlin's concern about precedent. He asked how many others like this were there? It was noted that one such connection was the Borden Street housing, however, their meter was inside a building already and not exactly the same as this. The other was the Farr home which had a 1,200 foot service line where the meter was in the village.

There was discussion about leak detection and risks to the system by allowing this. Mr. Chamberlin said he didn't strongly object but the town had strong standards for public infrastructure and in this case the developer was allowed to not use them since the meter was installed prior to the service lateral. The town should not in those cases then take ownership of the lateral that did not conform to town standards. There was some additional discussion.

Mr. Hill offered a motion to approve the request to relocate the Richmond Terrace water meter from the roadside vault to inside the building with the understanding that the service lateral between the main and the building would remain owned by Richmond Terrace and was seconded by Mr. Bailey. There was some additional discussion about other situations.

Mr. Hill amended his motion to add that meter and plumbing costs were to be borne by the account owner and Mr. Fischer seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Sander arrived at 6:30 pm.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Chamberlin reported that the Chlorine Contact Time project was going well. The pipe was in place and would be tested and backfilled. Mr. Fischer asked if then the system would have an excess of chlorine, and Mr. Chamberlin said that the pipe would be flushed and refilled prior to connection to the system.

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2 Mr. Chamberlin reported that septage was interesting lately in that one of the haulers had bought a  
3 certain truck which was coming less frequently. Mr. Chamberlin added he was doing a line-break  
4 survey to determine how much we spend on repairs, and when and where. Mr. Hill said we should  
5 assess repair versus replacement costs for certain lines.

#### 6 7 Financial Reports

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9 Connie Doherty, finance assistant, reported on delinquent septage collection and delinquent account  
10 collections. There was some discussion on the reports but acknowledged that the balances over the  
11 past year had come way down. Ms. Doherty said she anticipated that at the end of the current  
12 quarter the delinquent amounts would be the lowest we've seen.

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14 Mr. Bailey asked if we could put together a delinquent notice that could be used by account holders to  
15 get assistance. Ms. Doherty said that our current notices could be used for that, and match state  
16 statute on form and content.

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18 The board also reviewed current and prior year budget status.

#### 19 20 Delinquent Septage Policy

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22 The Manager explained that last year when we changed the delinquent septage policy interest rate, it  
23 was set too high. One of our account holders complained that it did not match statute, and we  
24 consulted town counsel Mark Sperry who reported that septage for us is essentially a retail operation.  
25 User accounts are not held to the commercial interest rate statutes, however, it appeared that  
26 septage would be. Therefore, the amounts charged could only be 18% per annum for the first three  
27 months and 12% per annum thereafter.

28  
29 Mr. Hill offered a motion to amend the delinquent septage policy interest rate to be 18% per annum  
30 for the first three months and 12% per annum thereafter. Mr. Fischer seconded the motion and the  
31 motion carried 5-0.

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33 The Manager said we would investigate any one who had overpaid and refund or credit their account  
34 for the overpayment.

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36 This was the last meeting for Ms. Lucht, who had resigned following the Selectboard meeting on this  
37 date. She thanked everyone for their support over the past two years and noted much had been  
38 accomplished.

#### 39 40 Adjourn

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42 Mr. Sander offered a motion to adjourn at 6:50 pm and was seconded by Mr. Hill. So voted.