

**RICHMOND WATER AND SEWER
COMMISSION MEETING
October 19, 2015 MINUTES**

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Members Present: Bard Hill, Chair; David Sander, Vice Chair; Lincoln Bressor (arrived 5:55);
Bruce Bailey

Members Absent: Robert Fischer

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water Resources;
Sheila Bailey; Maureen Kangley; Heidi Bormann; Donna Saks; Cara
LaBounty; Bruce LaBounty; and Ruth Miller was present from MMCTV to
tape the meeting.

Mr. Hill called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Welcome and Public Comment

Mr. Hill asked if there was any public comment, but there was none.

Water Storage Tank Update

The Manager reported that the final section of front wall was formed and would be poured this week,
and they would work on the roof and pour that the following week. The town would fill and test the
tank prior to backfill, which is expected towards the end of November.

East Main Street

The Manager had no significant news to report on this project.

West Main Street

The Manager reported that Ms. LaBounty would arrive later with a report on the income survey.

Richmond Terrace Request for Lower Water Rates

The Manager reported that Richmond Terrace, through Cathedral Square, had requested a new rate.
They determined that each unit in their building was being charged seven times more than a single
family home would be for the same water use, on a per-gallon basis. They requested 50% of the
normal base rate for both water and sewer on each unit.

The board had a discussion on the equitability of water and sewer rates, and how the rates could be
more equitable, or what suggestions might be heard and what the risks were.

Maureen Kangley said that 300 people did an income survey for the water tank, and we were eligible
for aid on the tank. That means we had a high proportion of low and middle income persons on the
system. If we give a break to Cathedral Square, who picks up the slack?

Heidi Bormann echoed this sentiment and said it comes across in her apartments also. They pay for
what they use, and if we give a break to Cathedral Square, we have to do this for everyone – which
can't be possible.

1 Mr. Chamberlin said for what research he has done, the take away is that you can take from one and
2 give to another. He suggested a special donated funds option for cases like this.

3
4 Mr. Hill summed up the issue with one question, who would pay more if the paid less? Mr. Hill
5 requested that we review rates on November 2nd.

6 7 Browns Court Sewer Connection

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9 Donna Saks of Browns Court said that she now had a permit from the State to connect the bathroom.
10 Mr. Chamberlin had spoken with her designer about a grinder pump and was ok with the design.

11
12 Ms. Saks said there was never a leachfield, just containment. She wasn't the first owner of the home
13 since the system was installed incorrectly, and they were connecting it now. The septic was only
14 occasionally used. She hoped that the board could move on.

15 16 Pressure Reducing Valve Installation

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18 Mr. Hill said he'd had several more conversations, and there were postings on Front Porch Forum.
19 Mr. Chamberlin said the town was not responsible for indoor plumbing, but as he has found out
20 recently, there were still galvanized connections. These might rupture with higher pressure.

21
22 Mr. Chamberlin said he sometimes gets asked by the town can't install one on the mains, and the
23 answer is that this would restrict fire flow and that's a big reason for the new tank. We needed a
24 minimum of 20 psi in all flow conditions to each connection.

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26 Heidi Bormann asked what would happen to East Main when the new tank comes online. Mr.
27 Chamberlin said he was prepared for leaks. If it gets too bad, then a temporary line solution could be
28 implemented.

29 30 Superintendent's Report

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32 Mr. Chamberlin reported that some service line work was scheduled for this week on Cochran Road
33 and there might be some slight service interruptions there.

34
35 Mr. Chamberlin said he'd like to speak with Adam Sherman, our CSWD Rep, about something he had
36 heard, which is a proposed facility for septage to keep phosphorus out of sewage treatment plants.
37 This could be a negative hit to our revenue should it be built.

38
39 Taylor Yeates said that phosphorus was killing our rivers and streams and lakes and just sending it
40 out of state sends the problem to other places. This may be a solution to a significant environmental
41 problem.

42 43 Approval of Minutes

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45 Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the minutes of September 21, 2015 and was seconded by
46 Mr. Bailey. The motion carried 4-0.

47
48 Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the minutes of October 5, 2015 and was seconded by Mr.
49 Bressor and the motion carried 3-0-1 with Mr. Hill abstaining.

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51 The Warrants were approved.

52 53 West Main and Income Survey

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1 Cara LaBounty said she and surveyor Tom Clark discussed how these could work. She explained
2 her issues with delivery and returns, and her efforts to get more people returning surveys and correct
3 miscommunication. She said she met with the owner, Peter Brown, about approved FEMA elevations
4 that were headed our way.

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6 The board discussed the survey. They had previously given November 2nd as a deadline for the
7 survey returns.

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9 **Next Agenda**

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11 The board agreed that the next agenda should include reports on the three large projects: Water
12 Storage Tank, East Main and West Main; an update on the income survey; water rates; and the
13 Superintendent's report.

14
15 **Adjourn**

16
17 Mr. Sander offered a motion to adjourn at 6:50 pm and was seconded by Mr. Bressor. So voted.