

**RICHMOND WATER AND SEWER
COMMISSION MEETING
November 21, 2016 MINUTES**

Members Present: David Sander; Lincoln Bressor; Bob Reap; Fran Huntoon

Members Absent: Bard Hill

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water Resources; Connie Bona, Finance Assistant; Brad Washburn, Green Mountain Engineering; Maureen Kangley; and Ruth Miller was present from MMCTV to tape the meeting.

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

Welcome and Public Comment

Mr. Sander asked if there was any comment from the public, but there was none.

Pleasant Street Update

The Manager explained that the deeds were signed and that certifications were under way to get the project moving forward. Brad Washburn of Green Mountain Engineering said that a winter shut down was possible, and that only the short section between Pleasant Street and Lemroy Court would be completed now. The Manager reported that the \$75,000 resolution was in place and the loan amendment request had been made.

West Main Street

The Manager explained that they had a meeting tomorrow with USDA to go over final details of the application. He had asked Green Mountain Engineering about the archeology study, and there was still time to start this although typically the State issued a winter shut down notice by mid-December. The board considered this but it was too soon to start this up without knowing what USDA had to say.

There was a discussion on the commitment letters that Bob Reap had put together for submission to the USDA. Mr. Bressor pointed out that these didn't include rates or ongoing costs, and didn't represent a true commitment. He said that this letter should have been reviewed by the board first. At some point, a commitment would be necessary and we don't know who would agree and who wouldn't.

The board discussed this. The question was, should the board move forward. Mr. Bressor wanted to put a hold on the archeology study until we knew what USDA wanted – he didn't want to incur more costs for something the town might reject.

Bob Reap said that if we've gotten this far with USDA, then stopping would be like throwing those costs away if we don't move ahead. Mr. Bressor said that people balked at the rates. If people don't commit later, then we're still throwing the money away. He requested that USDA waive or postpone the archeology study.

There was some discussion. The board agreed to request a waiver or deferral of the archeological study, but meet with USDA tomorrow and discuss how to finalize the application.

1 **FY2018 Budget**

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3 Mr. Chamberlin and Ms. Bona reviewed the budget. The Manager said that what had not been
4 addressed was the additional \$18,220 in fire protection fees sought from the General Fund, which the
5 Selectboard controlled.

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7 Mr. Chamberlin made his case for the additional fees. He explained the original and prevailing
8 rationale for this – the extra size of the tank was to address ISO water storage requirements for
9 firefighting. The system users should not bear the debt for that alone. Since the debt would hit in full
10 next year, increasing the fire protection fee now made sense. After some discussion, the board
11 agreed that this fee was warranted and would request the Selectboard include it in their budget.

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13 **Superintendent Report**

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15 Mr. Chamberlin on the asset management project. He also reported that a “lost” section of the West
16 Main sewer in the village was clogged up. This was an original sewer that was very old that was not
17 replaced in the early 1970s when the newer sewer was installed, but the new merely intercepted the
18 old. This was clogged and causing problems and Mr. Chamberlin wanted to replace it. He suggested
19 the town offer to cover “backup” damages and the board agreed to consider them.

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21 He reported that the voluntary OSHA inspections through the Vermont League of Cities and Towns
22 had paid off, saying our rate is 25% less than average.

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24 **Warrants**

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26 The warrants were reviewed and approved.

27 **Adjourn**

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29 Mr. Bressor offered a motion to adjourn at 6:58 pm and was seconded by Ms. Huntoon. So voted.
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