

**RICHMOND WATER AND SEWER
COMMISSION MEETING
February 1, 2016 MINUTES**

Members Present: Bard Hill, Chair; David Sander, Vice Chair; Bruce Bailey

Members Absent: Lincoln Bressor; Robert Fischer

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water Resources; Alan Huizenga, Green Mountain Engineering; Sheila Bailey; Bob Reap and Ruth Miller was present from MMCTV to tape the meeting.

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

Welcome and Public Comment

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

Water Storage Tank Update

Alan Huizenga of GME reported that the tank was supposed to come online this week, but it was delayed due to the need for additional testing. There were two bacterial tests conducted, but the second one was a positive and therefore additional chlorination and testing was required. Mr. Huizenga said he suspected that the hit was the result of how the test was taken and not actual contamination of the tank.

East Main Street

The Manager explained that Green Mountain Engineering was working on getting the permit to construct, and were working with the town’s attorney to obtain certificate to title or easement for the project.

West Main Street

The Manager explained that the survey was being finalized by Mr. Clark and would be submitted this week. He said that Mr. Clark had received some additional surveys, but some had been written to indicate the respondent refused to participate. However, Mr. Clark was finalizing the survey and would submit according to how he described earlier, by estimating extraordinary high incomes for the missing responses.

Mr. Hill wanted the results emailed to the board members as soon as they were in hand.

There was some discussion as to whether or not the board should continue with this, in light of the difficulty with the survey. Mr. Hill said that the board should continue, and can make decisions on whether or not to complete the project at a later time, but finding out what federal funding was available was important. The Manager was asked several questions about funding availability and he reported that he wasn’t able to say how much, if anything, the town would be eligible for, but the median income seemed to qualify according to Mr. Clark.

Sewer Connection Ordinance

This discussion concerned the 1972 Sewer Connection Ordinance, which was the basis of the Saks sewer connection issue on Browns Court. Mr. Chamberlin asked what the issue with this ordinance

1 was. Mr. Hill said that the questions raised were the strength of the ordinance and if we could collect
2 fines, and how. Under section 8, 2, it was an attention grabber for a fine of up to \$1,000 per day.

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4 Mr. Chamberlin said it should be a minimum of \$800 per day. There was a discussion of some other
5 changes needed to modernize the ordinance, mostly changes to reflect how the system operated and
6 was managed today. There was some additional discussion, and the board requested the
7 amendments be made and come back at a future meeting.

8 9 Annual Customers Meeting

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11 The Manager said that it was set that the annual customers meeting would be held on May 19th. The
12 Water Commission reviewed what should be discussed – Fy2017 budget, rates, the East Main project
13 and a status of how the water and sewer systems are operating.

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15 The Water Commission reviewed the budget status. Mr. Sander asked about past-due septage, and
16 Mr. Chamberlin said there was about \$7,000 outstanding.

17 18 Superintendent's Report

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20 Mr. Chamberlin reported that the tank was delayed, as reported by Mr. Huizenga, and that he insisted
21 that the tank only come online during the early part of the week, to make sure that there was time to
22 address emergency issues should they arise.

23
24 Mr. Chamberlin reported that Hartigan was televising the sewer lines for Vermont Gas. This was
25 because sometimes the gaslines, which were bored beneath the ground, would sometimes pierce
26 sewer lines. The sewers might get clogged, and the usual procedure was to have someone auger
27 the line to clear the blockage. In this case, it could rupture a gas line causing a dangerous leak. So,
28 Vermont Gas was trying to identify these areas and correct them before a serious problem occurred.

29
30 Mr. Chamberlin said that Green Mountain Engineering was working on a proposal to design a
31 replacement for the final water line section on West Main in the village, and perhaps this could be a
32 bid alternate added to the West Main project.

33 34 Approval of Warrants

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36 There warrant was reviewed and approved.

37 38 Approval of Minutes

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40 Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the minutes of December 21, 2015, December 29, 2015,
41 January 4, 2016 and January 19, 2016. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-0.

42 43 Next Agenda

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45 Mr. Hill said we'd again talk about the three projects, and income survey, and talk about the sewer
46 connection ordinance.

47 48 Adjourn

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