

**RICHMOND WATER AND SEWER  
COMMISSION MEETING  
May 16, 2016 MINUTES**

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

Members Absent: Lincoln Bressor

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water Resources; Sheila Bailey; Alan Huizenga, Green Mountain Engineering; Greg Tucker; Fran Huntoon; Ed Wells; Maureen Kangley; Bob Reap; 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.

**Interviews for Water Commission**

Mr. Bailey and Mr. Fischer had both expressed their desire to retire from the Water Commission this year. The two seats were for system customers, which had been advertised with the other board and commission vacancies. Four respondents were present to be interviewed.

Greg Tucker: Mr. Tucker lived on Browns Court and recently retired as a salesman. He was looking to give back to the community.

Ed Wells: Mr. Wells lived on Cochran Road since 1993, and was recently retired and looking to become involved. He was a social worker and concerned about the environment. Ms. Kangley vouched for Mr. Wells.

Bob Reap: Mr. Reap was living on Wortheim Lane but owned rental property on Tilden Avenue since 1999. He was in construction, and was concerned about water rates. Mr. Reap and his wife also own land in the Gateway, which was the subject of a possible water and sewer extension. Mr. Bailey asked if Mr. Reap wanted that and Mr. Reap replied that it wasn't necessary for them to build but they could use it if it were to go through.

Fran Huntoon: Ms. Huntoon was a retired educator and education consultant. She lived on Thompson Road and wants to participate in town government. She has been on several boards here, and is the treasurer of the VEEP board.

The board interviewed each candidate. Mr. Wells and Mr. Tucker removed themselves from consideration, and the board thanked them for their interest and agreed to nominate Mr. Reap and Ms. Huntoon. The Selectboard was the appropriate body to make the final appointments.

Mr. Sander nominated Mr. Reap for the Water Commission and was seconded by Mr. Bailey, and the motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Bailey nominated Ms. Huntoon for the Water Commission and was seconded by Mr. Sanders and the motion carried 4-0.

1  
2 Water Storage Tank  
3

4 Alan Huizenga of Green Mountain Engineering was present to explain the results of the leak repairs  
5 on the new water storage tank. They had been using a “hydrophilic” expanding foam product that  
6 was NSF approved for potable water sources. They feel that the cracks of concern are about 95%  
7 sealed – there are some wet spots but no flows.  
8

9 There was some discussion on the next leak test. Mr. Chamberlin said that the test should show no  
10 more than 400 gallons per day loss, and the tank had to be isolated for 48 hours. There was some  
11 discussion on how this would be done, and some other items at the tank. A progress meeting would  
12 be held the next week to finalize the schedule.  
13

14 East Main Street  
15

16 Mr. Huizenga reported that bids came in lower than estimated, and the apparent low bid was  
17 Desrochers of Morrisville. These were being examined and a meeting would be held regarding  
18 awarding this contract, but Mr. Huizenga requested approval to award to the low bidder.  
19

20 There were some questions about this, and the lack of advance prep. The Water Commission  
21 agreed to add this item to the May 19<sup>th</sup> agenda.  
22

23 West Main Street  
24

25 Mr. Huizenga said that the application was submitted, and to expect word back in 2-3 weeks.  
26

27 Rates Discussion  
28

29 The approved budget called for a 5% increase in revenue from both water and wastewater. Mr.  
30 Chamberlin had provided a modified rate structure to generate this revenue.  
31

32 Mr. Chamberlin explained his modifications. Each class of user should pay the percentage of  
33 revenue by percentage of usage. Mr. Chamberlin noted that this had changed from the 2014 figures.  
34 Also, less water was being used, and that also affected rates. There was significant discussion. Mr.  
35 Hill noted that some users were predicted to pay a double digit percentage increase, and he was  
36 concerned about that.  
37

38 This discussion would be taken up again at the annual meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>.  
39

40 May 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Customers Meeting  
41

42 The board reviewed the agenda for the upcoming customer meeting. It was noted that the new  
43 members would take their seats then.  
44

45 Superintendent's Report  
46

47 Mr. Chamberlin reported that all was operating well. He was looking at creating a potential  
48 abatement policy, as nothing existed currently. The State had changed rules, requiring a notification  
49 within one hour of any overflows of untreated waste.  
50

51 Approval of Warrants  
52

53 There warrant was reviewed and approved.  
54

1 Mr. Bailey provided a list of suggestions to the Water Commission on how they should address  
2 certain concerns and issues he has identified.

3 **Adjourn**

4  
5 Mr. Fischer offered a motion to adjourn at 7:05 pm and was seconded by Mr. Sander. So voted.

DRAFT