

**RICHMOND WATER AND SEWER
COMMISSION MEETING
April 3, 2017 MINUTES**

Members Present: Bard Hill, Chair; Lincoln Bressor; Bob Reap

Members Absent: David Sander; Fran Huntoon

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water Resources; Maureen Kangley; 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.

West Main Extension Conceptual and Financial Plans

Mr. Hill led the discussion about funding updates and movement forward. The Manager had also had a recent conversation with the State funding agency on this. He spoke with Terisa Thomas and Thomas Brown at the State of Vermont's revolving loan fund section. They manage the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF for Water construction) and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) for Sewer, or Wastewater projects. The issue at hand was what qualifies us for State funding, since neither of our applications for West Main were approved.

Ms. Thomas explained that drinking water funding was difficult to get for extension/expansion projects and their main focus was village centers. She didn't feel that our expansion project qualified for drinking water funding.

Clean water funding had more flexibility, but their goal is public health. We would need to document a public health issue to qualify for an extension or expansion. USDA is more friendly towards an economic development component, but the state not so much. They require demonstration that we aren't contributing to sprawl or large scale development. There would not be the same phase 3 requirement as with USDA, but other restrictions may make their funding less attractive.

They have a straight 2% loan for clean water, with possible loan forgiveness of 50% up to \$400,000 in subsidy. I feel we would probably qualify for some level of subsidy but I'm not sure that they would offer terms that would allow for expanded development in the Gateway area.

She also explained what we already know – that VMBB funding comes with no restrictions on development or income sensitivity – but also no subsidy although current rates are quite low.

The board discussed this issue with funding and possibilities of identifying failing septic systems in the Gateway. The board wanted to document whether there was an issue, or not, but recognized concern about self-reporting or consequences of identifying failed septic. The Manager explained that the town generally does not get involved in failed systems although the Health Officer can issue health orders, with backing from the Board of Health. Mr. Chamberlin said typically the health order would include a plan to replace the system or connect to a public system if it were available. The timelines and ability to coordinate this with the proposed line extension were unknown, the Manager

1 noted, especially since the extension was not a definite project even with subsidized funding – it was
2 only likely not to happen without it.

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4 There was also discussion on the possibility of Vermont Municipal Bond Bank (VMBB) funding, which
5 offered no subsidy but also no strings for affordability or economic development.

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7 The board felt that a meeting with Gateway property owners and a couple of Commissioners could
8 help identify septic issues without raising an alarm, and gauge the likelihood of any problems rising to
9 a possible funding threshold. The board also asked the Manager to call the owner of the mobile
10 home park directly to see if there was any interest in pursuing Phase 3 at all.

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12 Mr. Chamberlin felt that the Public Safety Building Committee should approach the school leadership
13 about the line crossing their property. He felt that if they needed public water and sewer, then they
14 would be best to negotiate that extension. Mr. Hill wasn't sure that they were best but that a
15 discussion with CESU about their concerns was warranted.

16 Budget Status

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18 The Commissioners reviewed a budget status report. Mr. Chamberlin noted that the amount
19 recorded for water sales was not reflective of what was billed since they continue to purchase bulk
20 water for the Bolton Valley water system. Mr. Chamberlin would look into this issue and report at the
21 next meeting.

22 Superintendent's Report

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24 Mr. Chamberlin discussed the replacement of the 2002 Ford pickup, and noted that he hoped to use
25 the unexpected water revenue windfall to do so. He said that a new pickup, properly outfitted, would
26 be close to \$30,000 while a Transit van would be about \$26,000.

27
28 Maureen Kangley felt that a pickup truck was best suited for the department. Mr. Chamberlin said
29 that a van could safely store and carry tools, while the truck would be loaded each time it was
30 needed. Ultimately no decision on vehicle type was made by the board but the concept of
31 replacement was understood.

32
33 Mr. Chamberlin reported that another anoxic mixer motor had failed, although it may be new enough
34 to be refurbished and not replaced. Apparently the manufacturer of the motors had moved operations
35 overseas and after ten years or so motors were obsolete and unable to be repaired. This one was
36 installed in 2009, and perhaps could be repaired for several thousand dollars.

37
38 Mr. Chamberlin noted that with the new asset management schedules, he would run his motors to
39 failure and not replace them according to a time schedule, although funding for replacements would
40 be according to that schedule.

41
42 Mr. Chamberlin also explained more about the work required at the Bridge Street/Jolina
43 Court/Railroad Street intersection in preparation for the new building on Jolina Court being built by
44 Buttermilk, LLC. The board agreed that the town could use Buttermilk's contractor for that work,
45 paying the system's share of that work instead of hiring their own.

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47 Mr. Chamberlin spoke a bit more about the water line crossing on the bridge, and the board
48 suggested that the Selectboard should discuss this as well.

49 Approval of Warrants

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51 The warrant was reviewed and approved.

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1 **Annual Meeting**

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3 The Annual Meeting was discussed – it would be held on May 22nd at 7:00 PM at the Camels Hump
4 Middle School cafeteria and the typical topics would be discussed, with particular attention paid to the
5 West Main project.
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7 **Adjourn**

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9 Mr. Bressor offered a motion to adjourn at 6:55 pm and was seconded by Mr. Reap. So voted.

DRAFT