

**RICHMOND WATER AND SEWER
COMMISSION MEETING
January 16, 2018 MINUTES**

Members Present: Fran Huntoon; Bard Hill (arrived 5:55); Bob Reap; David Sander

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water Resources; and Ruth Miller was present from MMCTV to tape the meeting.

Ms. Huntoon called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Welcome and Public Comment

Ms. Huntoon asked for any public comment, but there was none.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Chamberlin reported that there had been flooding and refreezing over the weekend but no significant issues so far. There had been some frozen water services in homes that were vacant and he urged customers to let Water Resources know if a home would be empty. Cumberland Farms had also had a freezing issue.

One of the treatment plant filters was down and there may be a problem with an electrical valve. He was meeting with Chittenden Solid Waste District regarding the future sludge disposal contract. Currently someone in upstate New York was taking sludge but if that could no longer happen, sludge disposal costs may rise.

He spoke about the landscaping issues at the Water Storage Tank, and offered some suggestions. He urged the commissioners to delay action on removal of the old tanks unless there was a pressing need, citing cost concerns. If there was an identified use for the property, perhaps the tank removal can be considered in the context of a new use.

Mr. Chamberlin also spoke in favor of a larger bond question on Bridge Street, stating that the town should seek authorization from the voters for the full cost of Bridge Street and not just the two projects discussed previously.

Final FY2019 Budget; Current Year Budget Status

The Manager explained that this was the final draft of the FY2019 budget and while it would not be voted on at Town Meeting, it would need to be published in the annual report. The Commission determined that the budget as proposed was ready for the annual report. Mr. Sander offered a motion to approve the Fy2019 budget for publishing and was seconded by Ms. Huntoon and the motion carried 3-0.

The commissioners then reviewed the budget status. Mr. Chamberlin noted that it was a good year so far for both revenues and expenses. Mr. Sander asked if there were any water system breaks this year, and Mr. Chamberlin said no – only some customer service line breaks.

Bond Question – Bridge Street Water Lines

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2 The Manager explained that the town had prequalified for state revolving loan funds for some Bridge
3 Street water work, which happens to be the work that runs beneath the failing culvert on the upper
4 part, in front of Toscanos and TD Bank down to the railroad. We've also planned to relocate the water
5 line beneath the bridge and we've applied for funding but have not yet been prequalified.

6
7 In order to obtain these loans (at a subsidized rate) we'll need to have bond approval from the voters.
8 While the Water Commission is pending a decision to recommend this, which you're find out about on
9 Tuesday, I've attached the paperwork from our bond counsel. We're at the deadline for placing this
10 on the Town Meeting ballot, so there is really no time to spare. The amount of the bond was \$400,000
11 and the estimated cost of work would be \$415,000.

12
13 Mr. Chamberlin reiterated that he would like to see the bond amount as \$1 million so that would
14 streamline funding from the State. The Manager noted he disagreed, and the board discussed the
15 issue.

16
17 Mr. Chamberlin explained a few technical details about the Bridge Street line, such as materials
18 (mostly asbestos cement) and how long the materials had been in place. Mr. Chamberlin clarified that
19 this was from the bridge crossing, north to the four way intersection at East Main. The board noted
20 that they needed to determine what was necessary and prudent and understand the implications of not
21 only taking an action but of not taking one. The water rates were noted as a factor in determining how
22 much work to take on.

23
24 After some additional discussion, Mr. Hill offered a motion to recommend that the Richmond
25 Selectboard warn a bond question for Bridge Street water line work in the amount of \$400,000, at a
26 total cost of work not to exceed \$415,000. Mr. Sander seconded the motion, and the motion carried 4-
27 0.

28 29 West Main Design-Build Results

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31 The Manager explained that On January 5th he received two bids for the design-build project: GW
32 Tatro/Adrich & Elliott; and ECI (with some assistance from Dubois & King). The results indicate that
33 the cost of Phases 1 and 2 exceed the \$1 million budget we established. In the case of ECI, the
34 declined to provide a cost for both phases but offered a budget for what they felt would move the
35 project forward. GW Tatro offered a cost estimate for both phases (and just Phase 1) but not a firm,
36 fixed price.

37
38 Mr. Hill and Ms. Huntoon met on January 12th to review the bids. Their conclusion was that the bids
39 are either too high under current financial planning, or incomplete. The discussion tonight should
40 center around what to do next. We have already warned a meeting on the 29th to meet with the
41 residents to review options (USDA has asked to attend, also). A game plan for that meeting is also
42 being developed.

43
44 Eric Law of USDA reports that while our loan did not require Davis Bacon regulations, a design-build
45 would not have been acceptable to them. Even without utilizing federal funding for phases 1 and 2, it
46 may have disqualified phase 3 from the USDA loan. There was also the possibility of an
47 infrastructure appropriation from the Federal government later this year.
48

1 Mr. Hill noted that both responders explained that the project could not be done for less than \$1
2 million. This would be discussed at the January 29th meeting with the Gateway residents, but there
3 didn't appear to be a clear path forward at the bid cost.

4
5 Ms. Huntoon said that this has turned out to be a bit more than people thought.

6
7 Mr. Chamberlin said that Green Mountain Engineering had estimated \$1.1 million for phases 1 and 2,
8 which was close to the other bids. He was concerned that we would lose out on SRF funding if we did
9 not act. Mr. Hill said this would come down to the users of the extension and what they were willing
10 to pay. Mr. Chamberlin said that with a possible -3% loan this might be a last-ditch effort.

11
12 Asking GME to update their engineering report for the project and reapplying for State funding was
13 debated. Mr. Hill was reluctant to assign more costs to this stage. There was discussion about the
14 meeting on the 29th and Mr. Hill noted that without some external funding source the project was
15 unlikely to be supported by the expansion area property owners. Mr. Hill asked if the Mobile Home
16 Park owner could be notified, and see if he was interested in attending.

17 18 Other discussion

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20 Mr. Chamberlin expanded his thoughts on landscaping at the water tank. The Manager said that this
21 shouldn't be a large issue. Mary Houle offered some plantings for free if the town would plant them.

22
23 Mr. Chamberlin also suggested we think about the demolition of the steel tank and whether someone
24 would want the tank, the property, or both. He also suggested that the concrete tank with the shed roof
25 be turned into materials storage for Water Resources. The commissioners discussed the ideas and
26 determined there was no pressing need to demolish either tank at this time but that solutions would
27 come at future meetings. Mr. Chamberlin agreed to come up with some ideas on his own for the
28 commission to review.

29 30 Approval of Warrants

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32 The warrant was approved.

33 34 Items for discussion at the next meeting, start at 5:30

35 Superintendent's Report
36 West Main Street Update

37 38 Adjourn

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40 Mr. Sander offered a motion to adjourn at 6:35 pm and was seconded by Mr. Hill. So voted.