

**RICHMOND WATER AND SEWER
COMMISSION MEETING
March 19, 2018 MINUTES**

Members Present: David Sander; Bard Hill

Members Absent: Fran Huntoon; Bob Reap

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

Due to a lack of quorum, there was no official meeting. Those members present discussed agenda items with staff and no official actions were taken.

Welcome and Public Comment

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

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Chamberlin reported that he was working with the town's engineer to develop reuse plans for the water storage tanks as an alternative to costly demolition. Bolton Valley was still hauling water for their use and septage receipts were steady. So far this Winter, no water leaks.

Mr. Chamberlin also reported that the Reaps have a 30 gallon per minute well and he asked if the Water Commission would be interested in having this as a backup or secondary water source. This would involve connecting the system to their well and in effect taking it over. Mr. Chamberlin noted that having a sole source was a system weakness. There was significant discussion on this, and Mr. Hill suggested doing a cost/benefit analysis on this and what other options the town might have for a secondary source.

Mr. Chamberlin briefed the Commissioners on the railroad crossing being permitted for Bridge Street water work. Even though this wouldn't be until 2019 he said that hopefully it could be designed for a sixty foot installation instead of the railroad's standard 100 feet.

Mr. Chamberlin also noted that in the context of the budget, and with employees benefits, that the compensation is important to the employees and a generous benefit package is important to them.

Bridge Street Water Work

The Manager explained that the \$400,000 we asked for to do the work on Bridge Street has been approved by the voters. The water work on the upper Bridge Street section is complicated by the associated storm water work on the upper section. The Manager met with Alan and Brad of GME about what we should plan for. Additionally, both projects qualify for DWSRF funding which has to be applied for and approved.

The upper block is complicated and the full scope – water and storm – is still being defined. The storm water is also linked to East Main work, and while the full project on East Main is in limbo we can and should get started on the storm part of it. In the Manager's opinion, the storm water aspect of East Main is the most complex of any of the remaining work. The storm water also qualifies for CWSRF funding but he didn't want to eat up all of our \$650,000 East Main authorization with storm

1 water loans. We have some funding in this and next year's budget for culverts as well as a healthy
2 bridge and culvert reserve to accomplish much of this work – timing is critical so that we can
3 coordinate storm and water work at the same time.
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5 The upper block will take time to sort out so we do not expect to go to bid until 2019. This leaves the
6 Bridge crossing, which is a less complicated project and is likely to go to bid later in the year. GME
7 does not believe that combining the two projects would result in any economy, so it is safe to separate
8 them and complete them independent of one another. We'll get our loan from the State, prepare bid
9 documents and move forward. In this way, we can more easily manage both projects within
10 reasonable timeframes and not overstress our system, residents or engineers and staff.
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12 There was some discussion, and the Selectboard would continue the discussion as well as storm water
13 and water were linked.
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15 **Budget Status**

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17 The Commissioners reviewed the budget status. Mr. Chamberlin noted that one charge to CSWD
18 appeared to be recorded twice. Mr. Chamberlin also noted that the savings from the Bennington
19 Sheriff's solar project was helpful but not going to save tens of thousands of dollars on treatment plant
20 electricity. A full year analysis would be coming in a few months.
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22 **Adjourn**

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24 There being no meeting to adjourn, Mr. Hill ended discussion at 6:45 pm.