

Town of Richmond Water and Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2022

Members Present: Bard Hill, David Sander, Jay Furr, Greg Tucker

Members Absent: Fran Huntoon

Staff Present: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water Superintendent

Others Present: The meeting was recorded for MMCTV, Bob Reap, Bret Hamilton, Meg Freebern, Rebecca Rouiller, Rod West

Call to Order: 5:30 pm

Welcome by: Sander

Public Comment: None

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda: None

Superintendent's Report

Chamberlin: A tour is scheduled on Thursday with the phosphorous study team. We have have been coordinating with a resident on Esplanade who is demolishing and putting up a new house. The PFAS regulations will be changing (<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained>). The EPA standards for water tests for PFAS chemicals will have reduced limits. We might do something for effluent in the future. I have been urged to start saving our money. The last week, we were marking our valves, manholes, and waterlines on Rt 2. The tank has been completely painted thanks to Alan and Steve who finished it up. I might suggest we look at a foreground like trees to help it blend with current green background or future paint fading.

Sander: What are the proposed PFAS rates compared to what we currently run?

Chamberlin: A couple of them have 0.04 and 0.02 parts per trillion. We are just over the detectable limit. If we detect any of those chemicals, we will have to do some sort of PFAS treatment.

Hill: What does PFAS remediation looks like and how do you get it out of drinking water?

Chamberlin: The PFAS lawsuit discussed later tonight might determine so treatment strategies.

Arneson: I will start using Front Porch Forum and other outlets to communication the upcoming VTrans project.

Discussion with Rebecca Rouiller Director of Radiate Art Space regarding water tank painting

Rouiller: I am not sure what the Town has in mind in terms of soliciting ideas from the Community. Or do they want it more camouflaged? That is my preference. What is the desired outcome for the painting project and how it will be funded?

Hill: Do we want it benign as originally planned? If we want it obscure, then it merits public comment. If we do some sort of mural, then what is the curatorial process?

Furr: A mural will lessen the chance that it gets tagged by graffiti.

Rouiller: Another thought I had was that a one-time, kind of camouflaged trees mural might be a one-time task. The Richmond Climate Action committee or Andrews Community Forest, Audubon Society, and Birds of Vermont Museum might be good collaborators. Do we want a mural at all? Maybe time will tell if graffiti goes back up there.

Chamberlin: The trees on the tank is more of a camouflage but extensive. It currently looks awesome with the fresh green paint, and we should recoat every year. Some birch trees would help blend with any efflorescence that might appear on the surface.

Rouiller: The Vermont Arts Council might also commission a project, but it would take a few years to develop like the Jeffersonville Silos (<https://www.americansiloart.com/jeffersonville-vermont>)

Tucker: It looks so nice right now as it blends in. It might be a driving hazard based on people looking at the mural. I do like the idea of camouflage.

Chamberlin: Mention this at the Selectboard meeting and see what the reaction would be.

Hill: This small group seems like it is best to keep it as is. Then we can get some public opinions. I think it is about public opinion.

Sander: We should not rush and make a decision. Do we come back at another meeting?

Hill: Let's take it to Selectboard to see what they think of the two options to camouflage or design a mural. We could then ask for input for based on Front Porch Forum or a Google Form.

Sander: That makes sense to me.

Consideration of making a recommendation to the Selectboard on appointments to the customer seats on the Water and Sewer Commission

Sander: We have three Selectboard members on the Commission along with two users of the system as Commissioners. It is my understanding that Fran Huntoon will not continue her appointment. Greg Tucker is willing to serve for the time being.

Tucker: I made a commitment for a year and started in December 2021.

Sander: We do have a letter of interest from Morgan Wolaver.

Furr: I recommend Morgan Wolaver and he would be an excellent choice.

Furr moved to recommend the appointments of Greg Tucker and Morgan Wolaver to one-year terms beginning on July 1, 2022, on the Water and Sewer Commission for seats which are to be filled by customers. Hill seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Hill, Furr, Sander Tucker in favor. Motion passed.

Discussion of PFAS lawsuit

Arneson: The lawsuit is currently in federal court and litigation is reaching out to other municipalities to see if they want to join. There are two lawsuits. One is specific to PFAS manufacturers associated with the fire-fighting foam. We have a follow up call in a couple of days. There is also a case the State has brought against all PFAS manufactures. There is not direct money to Richmond from the Chittenden County litigation. The Vermont Rural Water Association is considering sending out a letter suggesting that systems join this lawsuit.

Discussion of Gateway Sewer Expansion as a private project from Camels Hump Middle School to Reap property

Arneson: Kendall reached out to engineer Tyler Billingsley about the follow up questions regarding the sizing and placing of the system. Tyler did not have time to put together a proposal. We will look at plans from the Reaps and Green Mountain Engineering. He should have something to look at the next meeting. He would also look at billing for this expansion.

Chamberlin: We will have more information at the next meeting. The Richmond Land Trust easement might not be as opposed as they initially seemed to be.

West: Is it a conflict of interest for Tyler to to be employed by a group of Gateway residents? I would like to hire Tyler to do a PER and feasibility plan past Phase 1 as a private build out. I would hope to build it to Town standards.

Hill: We should ask Tyler about a conflict of interest to do these projects. Being paid by two different people might not be a conflict of interest. Any licensed profession would have to answer that question first.

West: Tyler wanted to make sure he looked out for the interest of the Town as his customer before taking on another customer.

Hill: I would like to hear his opinion so we should invite him to a future meeting. There might be a conflict of two different customers.

Furr: Each profession typically has a code of conduct and a supplementary section that lists these types of scenarios.

Sander: It looks like it makes sense to reach out to Tyler to schedule for a future meeting.

Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders

Minutes

Furr: I have an edit for the Minutes of June 6, top of page 3. We need to add a comma to say: “We need to provide fire protection out to the interstate, which we cannot do without an 8-inch line.”

*Furr moved to approve the Minutes of 6/6/22 as amended. Tucker seconded.
Roll Call Vote: Hill, Furr, Sander, Tucker in favor. Motion passed.*

Warrants

*Furr moved to approve the Warrants as presented. Tucker seconded.
Roll Call Vote: Hill, Furr, Sander, Tucker in favor. Motion passed.*

Purchase Orders

*Furr moved to approve PO# 4352 to CSWD for shipment of dewatered sludge in the amount of \$130,000. Tucker seconded.
Roll Call Vote: Hill, Furr, Sander, Tucker in favor. Motion passed.*

*Furr moved to approve PO# 4353 to Various Chemical Supplies for sodium aluminate and polymers for sludge dewatering in the amount of \$100,000. Tucker seconded.
Roll Call Vote: Hill, Furr, Sander, Tucker in favor. Motion passed.*

*Furr moved to approve PO# 4354 to Various Contractors for budgeted water leaks and waterline repairs as they happen in the amount of \$25,000. Tucker seconded.
Roll Call Vote: Hill, Furr, Sander, Tucker in favor. Motion passed.*

*Furr moved to approve PO# 4385 to People’s United Bank for Vermont Bond Bank Water Tank loan in the amount of \$37,704.86. Tucker seconded.
Roll Call Vote: Hill, Furr, Sander, Tucker in favor. Motion passed.*

Discuss Items for Next Agenda and Adjourn

- *Gateway private expansion with Tyler about conflict of interest
- *State of Vermont has \$300,000 from projects on Bridge St not yet reimbursed
- *Recruitment for Commission members

Adjournment

*Tucker moved to adjourn. Hill seconded.
Roll Call Vote: Hill, Furr, Sander, Tucker in favor. Motion passed.*

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm

Chat: None