

Town of Richmond Water and Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes of July 18, 2022

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

Members Absent: None

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

Others Present: The meeting was recorded for MMCTV, Rod West, Virginia Clarke

Call to Order: 5:30 pm

Welcome by: Sander

Public Comment:

Hill: I want to note for our Water & Sewer Commission that there are other places in the United States where they are close to the edge in terms of water quality. The combination of good drinking water and well-treated sewage is at risk.

Sander: The irony is not lost on me where we experience drought here but not compared to other parts of the country. We should be thankful.

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda: None

Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

Superintendent's Report

Chamberlin: We have been doing some line locations for projects in Town. Steve has been doing some very handy valve replacements around the building. We are doing an extensive sludge testing due to Coventry Landfill requirements. We used a camera at a section of the line from the vault in Volunteers Green to Esplanade. We could tell Pete where the stormwater connections are located. The main line was three-quarters filled with various debris and sand. We cleaned it all out. There is no damage to the pipe at all. We discovered a small sag on the main line that comes down Bridge Street. We will coordinate with the Thompson Rd project. The Old Buttermilk line is still putting material into the system. Josh and I are working on a plan to address the situation.

Hill: Is the Buttermilk line still an active sewage line?

Chamberlin: It is not an active line for Buttermilk, but one resident is still connected to the old private service line. I met with Tyler and Josh, and we want to talk to the resident and Buttermilk before we come up with a concrete plan.

Arneson: We want to understand the ownership of the line and who cleans it out.

Hill: What is our responsibility for a public or private standard?

Chamberlin: There is no question that it is a private line. Does the Town have any culpability for what they have done in the past? That is what we need to address. For instance, if the Highway Department did extensive work on a private road and then there would be action on both ends on the future responsibilities.

Hill: Maybe this is a topic for the Selectboard to consider about riverbank management.

Follow up on status of closing the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan for the Bridge St. project

Arneson: We are still not hearing from DWSRF despite repeated attempts from myself and our Finance Director. We are still hoping to schedule a meeting to find out what type of information they need. The last conversation in February was about permanent vs temporary paving. We are waiting for other questions before signing off on final payment request.

Hill: Is it time to write a friendly letter to a higher up about what is still missing? We need to express our concern about receiving the funds we feel we are due.

Sander: Can Josh follow up with that?

Arneson: I think we should write a formal letter from the Commission. In two weeks, I will hopefully get some more information but will have a letter ready

Hill: David can you write a letter, so we do not have a two-week delay?

Tucker: Does it carry more weight if we all sign it?

Wolaver: I think it is fine from just the Chair of the Water and Sewer Commission.

Hill: Our next escalation could be the Selectboard.

Follow up on Gateway Expansion Project

Arneson: I know Kendall and Tyler are still catching up on the specifications for this.

Chamberlin: We are looking into the private realm as we know what the public specs require.

Hill: Is it Back to the Future or Déjà Vu All Over Again? Is there potential support for a future private line? The Reaps and Mobil station are interested in the next construction season. There is no feasible way we could do a public system to start during the next construction season.

Wolaver: Does Doggie Day Care still have an interest?

Furr: They couldn't wait as they were using chemical toilets in the winter.

Chamberlin: The Commission could give them an extended timeframe to join on a municipal line goes by their property.

Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders

Minutes

*Hill moved to approve the Minutes of 7/5/22 as presented. Furr seconded.
Roll Call Vote: Hill, Furr, Sander, Tucker, Wolaver in favor. Motion passed.*

Warrants

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

Purchase Orders

Arneson: No purchase orders for this meeting.

Discuss Items for Next Agenda and Adjourn

- *Status of DWSRF closing
- *Updates on Gateway Expansion

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:52 pm

Chat: None