

**R I C H M O N D W A T E R A N D S E W E R
C O M M I S S I O N M E E T I N G
O c t o b e r 3 , 2 0 1 1 M I N U T E S**

Members Present:	Jon Kart, Chair; Erik Filkorn, Vice-Chair; Chris Granda; Harold Irish; Bruce Bailey
Members Absent:	None
Others Present:	Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Administrator; Linda Parent, Town Clerk; ; and Ruth Miller was present to videotape the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15.

Chairman Kart called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

1. Welcome and Public Comment

Request for Waiver of Water and Sewer Collection Charges related to Hurricane Irene

The Administrator explained that certain residents had service interruptions or high water usage during and after the flooding from Hurricane Irene. A variety of reasons caused this, from broken services that could not be shut off, to extra usage for cleanup related costs. The residences affected were on Esplanade Street, Old Brooklyn Court and Bridge Street. Two requests had been received for abatement of some or all of these charges for the quarter.

Superintendent Kendall Chamberlin explained that he had done a three-year review of the water charges for all residents that were flooded and suggested that those accounts whose prior three year average was less than the current quarter reading be allowed an abatement for the overage. There was discussion among the board about the policy on abatements, and why this situation might be unique.

Mr. Filkorn offered a motion to abate the water and sewer charges for those accounts identified as affected by the flood, in amounts over the calculated prior three-year average usage. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Mr. Kart abstaining due to his being one of the accounts listed.

The Administrator explained that one account had requested a full abatement of all charges for the quarter, and indefinitely, until the home was made habitable again. This included the base charges. It was noted that this account was the only one with water turned off at this time. Kendall Chamberlin noted that this had never been done before. Linda Parent also noted that in other cases of damaged homes the residents were still required to pay.

There was discussion on this request, and if flood relief funds were available. The Administrator explained that flood relief funds from FEMA or other federal agencies did not cover taxes or utilities.

Mr. Filkorn offered a motion to abate 2/3 of the base charge for water and sewer for Ayesha Raftery as well as the over usage and was seconded by Mr. Irish. The motion carried 5-0.

Baker Street Change Order

The Administrator explained that the water line at the fire hydrant on Baker Street was discovered to be a size smaller than was thought, and the contractor was told to replace the undersized line to match the rest of the waterline installation. Kendall Chamberlin filled the board in on the details.

Mr. Filkorn offered a motion to approve the change in contract amount for the Baker Street waterline project for the amount required for the additional 8 inch waterline, and was seconded by Mr. Bailey and the motion carried 5-0.

Kendall Chamberlin then explained some of the damages to the water and wastewater infrastructure. He noted two items he wished to get started on, the first being a relocation of the electrical panel for the pump station on Bridge Street.

After some discussion , Mr. Filkorn offered a motion to approve the relocation of the electrical panel and was seconded by Mr. Granda and the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Chamberlin then explained that the sewer force main on the bridge was damaged, and Green Mountain Engineering had prepared an estimate, with a quote from Parent Construction to perform the work. This would have to be before Winter set in, but after the bridge painting work.

Mr. Filkorn offered a motion to approve the contract award to Parent Construction not to exceed \$21,000 to repair the sewer force main and was seconded by Mr. Granda. The motion carried 5-0.

2. Adjourn

Motion by Mr. Irish to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Granda. So voted.