

1 **Town of Richmond**
2 **Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission**
3 **Special Minutes of October 25, 2023**
4

5 **Members Present:** Bard Hill, David Sander, Erin Farr, Jay Furr, Morgan Wolaver
6

7 **Members Absent:** None
8

9 **Staff Present:** Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Steve Cote, Water Resources
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11 **Others Present:** The meeting was recorded for MMCTV, Kirsten Worden
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13 **MMCTV Video:** <https://archive.org/details/RichmondSpecWaterSewer10252023>
14

15 **Call to Order: 5:00 pm**
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17 **Welcome:** Wolaver
18

19 **Public Comment:** None
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21 **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:** None
22

23 **Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present**
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25 **Consideration of approving purchase of replacement equipment for dewatering**
26 **facility**
27

28 Cote: The replacement of the two channels on our current press are not a waste, they can
29 be transferred to a new press or an upgraded system. The recommendation was to stay
30 with the Fournier style press for our current and future situation. The electronic upgrade
31 is another \$71,000 because that is like a year out and is usable in the upgrade going
32 forward. We're going to need them one way or another, it's not lost money. The
33 purchase of the two new channels to go on to our base press is fine and those can be
34 transferred if we decide to upgrade it. Our base press is in really good shape, it's just the
35 channels are shot. Those centrifugal style presses are out of our price range. My concern
36 was putting the press back into the complete operational phase and not upgrading the air
37 part of it. They thought that they could upgrade those parts so they would not be too far
38 off. Not included in any of these prices is the recommendation that we upgrade the air
39 compressor.
40

41 Arneson: The equipment that we're purchasing tonight, it is a sole source provider, so we
42 don't do an RFP. on this, we just buy it, because there's really only one place to buy it
43 from.
44

45 Worden: With a full upgrade, you would be financing it most likely through the State of
46 Vermont's Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program, which has a 2% loan, and
47 they have pretty strict procurement requirements. That doesn't need to have an RFP,
48 because it's just replacing certain parts and pieces to it to keep it functional. The
49 recommendation of our 20-year evaluation will be to have a full comprehensive upgrade

50 to the full dewatering and septage receiving facilities at the plant. If it is the direction for
51 the Town to continue to accept the amount of septage, this is the best dewatering
52 technology on the market for that purpose.

53

54 Arneson: The dewatering equipment for the two channels is \$120,930 and the
55 recommended control panel is \$56,485, the total is \$177,415. The Wastewater Capital
56 Reserves currently has a balance at the end of FY23 of \$462,000 and we also have
57 Unrestricted funds at the end of FY23 of \$406,000. Wastewater Capital Reserve is
58 money that we've been putting aside specifically for things like this so it might make
59 sense to spend out of that before we start using Unassigned funds.

60

61 *Hill moved to use Wastewater Capital Reserve to purchase Dewatering Equipment from*
62 *Fournier as presented for \$120,930 and to approve PO# 4824 and the warrant for the*
63 *20% deposit of \$24,186. Furr seconded.*

64 *Roll Call Vote: Farr, Furr, Hill, Sander, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.*

65

66 *Hill moved to use Wastewater Capital Reserve to purchase an Allen-Bradley Control*
67 *Panel and Instrumentation from Fournier as presented for \$56,485 and to approve PO#*
68 *4822 and the warrant for the 20% deposit of \$11,297. Farr seconded.*

69 *Roll Call Vote: Farr, Furr, Hill, Sander, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.*

70

71 Worden: There is no ability to increase the footprint of that plant, you're in the middle of
72 a floodplain, so there's a limit to what your plant can do and that's what we're trying to
73 determine right now. What do you want to see for the next 20 years for septage and how
74 do you want to treat your industrial users?

75

76 Hill: It's not how much septage do we want to take, it's what all the other customers
77 need? It is a topic for a future agenda item.

78

79 **Adjournment**

80

81 *Sander moved to adjourn. Farr seconded.*

82 *Roll Call Vote: Farr, Furr Hill, Sander, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.*

83

84 Meeting adjourned at: 5:51 pm

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86 **Chat file from Zoom:**

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