

**Town of Richmond**  
**Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission**  
**Minutes of November 6, 2023**

**Members Present:** Bard Hill, David Sander, Erin Farr, Jay Furr

**Members Absent:** Morgan Wolaver

**Staff Present:** Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town Manager; Steve Cote, Water Resources

**Others Present:** The meeting was recorded for MMCTV, Dave Thomas, Jeremy Hoff

**MMCTV Video:** <https://archive.org/details/RichmondWaterSewer11062023>

**Call to Order: 6:00 pm**

**Welcome:** Farr

**Public Comment:** None

**Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:** None

**Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders**

**Minutes:**

*Furr moved to approve the Minutes of 10/16/23 meeting as presented. Hill seconded.*

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

*Furr moved to approve the Minutes of 10/25/23 meeting as presented. Hill seconded.*

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

**Warrants:**

*Furr moved to approve the 11/6/23 Warrants as presented. Sander seconded.*

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

**Purchase Orders:** None

**Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present**

**Update on Gateway sewer expansion, including an update from the Richmond Land Trust**

Hoff: I am from the Richmond Land Trust, and I sent in a letter earlier today giving a formal response to the Commission's request. We did undertake a nice process of talking to the interested stakeholders and talking to the Planning Commission to assuage some of the concerns that we had about what could happen in the Gateway.

Farr: I didn't even have a chance to read the letter because it came a little later until I got here.

Furr: It also hasn't been published in the packet to the Town.

Hill: I became aware of it at 5:36 PM. I think it should be attached to the agenda, maybe the next meeting.

Hoff: There's an existing easement in place that is limited to the Reap property and in exchange for us expanding the scope of that easement to let other properties be served, we would be looking for the Reaps to effectively give up their rights to do the same thing. We want to make sure there's not multiple water and sewer lines going into the property. There's an open issue with the school district that needs to be resolved in terms of the condition of that line before the project can go forward. Bullets d. and e. talk about not installing electric service or pump stations on the conserved property. Bullet g. talks about the service area for this line, which is from the Reap property through the Crate Escape property, all the parcels on the eastern side of Rt 2, the Mobile station, the Verburg Farm homestead and anything north of the I-89 interchange. There are a few parcels that are excluded from that list. Bullet h. talks about the parcels in the Gateway district dedicating a 30-foot-wide strip of land, which is in the zoning setback, partially in the road right away, to make sure that's set aside in part for green space and in part to facilitate the walking/bike path that has been coveted by many for a long time.

Hill: This would not connect the Park & Ride to the Village. I know there's interest by Committees and people who don't own property there. My question is what are the opinions of people who own property about the path. I remember our previous Water Sewer Superintendent saying to serve a fire hydrant, we'd need a diameter of eight inches. I don't think six inches is a problem for sewer line, but it would be irresponsible to put water down there that didn't serve a hydrant for that part of Town.

Hoff: There aren't any engineering plans for this, so we were trying to put some parameters on what the infrastructure is going to be so this isn't going to be catastrophic to the property. If it's 6 or 8 inches, we just kind of need to know what that is.

Hill: The easement would be contingent on multiple other easements from property owners and the school, so I feel like we're in this Catch-22. I don't know how optimistic to be given the sequence of what you would see property owners to do and the Town to do with the school lines. We don't have a way to make this financially viable in the first place.

Arneson: Is your goal to have just one line through the school property?

Hoff: That's a significant hurdle that needs to get cleared for any of this to be viable.

Hill: That's not clear that it means the existing lines, new lines or either.

Hoff: The intent is that there's connectivity from Jericho Rd to the property to make this easement useful. That's what bullet b. intends.

Hill: I think if we attach it to the next meeting, we should also send it to the school and the other property owners just in advance.

Arneson: You're envisioning all the property owners from the Reaps up to and including the Mobile Station?

Cote: Anybody that would have to give a 30-foot easement.

Hill: I find it awkward to have a conversation about their property without notifying them that's what we're doing.

**Review of October 2023 water data**

[https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2023/1/4b1\\_Monthly\\_Water\\_Report\\_for\\_October\\_2023.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2023/1/4b1_Monthly_Water_Report_for_October_2023.pdf)

[https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2023/1/4b2\\_Monthly\\_Fluoride\\_Test\\_September\\_2023.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2023/1/4b2_Monthly_Fluoride_Test_September_2023.pdf)

[https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2023/1/4b3\\_Monthly\\_Fluoride\\_Test\\_October\\_2023.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2023/1/4b3_Monthly_Fluoride_Test_October_2023.pdf)

Arneson: There are a few anomalies, but it's sort of to be expected on water, fluoride and chlorine.

Cote: The State requires a monthly fluoride test, it's just a little test tube, you fill it up, you put the cap on, put it in the mail, and you send it in. The one that came to my attention was September, what we read was a 0.6 and the State read was a 0.4. The one that concerned me was where we sent a sample in that was a 0.6 October and it came back less than 0.1. Both of those samples were taken at the same point, same time. Fluoride doesn't dissipate like chlorine does. The State guy will be here tomorrow morning to help me figure this out. He told me the State probably made the mistake and put a blank in when they were doing our test. We're going to go through the whole fluoride thing and the test. We are going to take a sample and we are going to do our test. We're going to split the sample and send a sample to the State and send a sample to Endyne, they will do a fluoride test within two days. We're going to put the sample in our fridge at 6 degrees Celsius for 10 days and we're going to go through the whole process again. This is the approved method, the way we use it's basically a colorimeter.

Sander: This looks like a quick in the field ballpark test, I would suspect that a lab test is more accurate.

Arneson: This test is what the State supplies to us for being in the program, it was just calibrated in September.

Cote: The target is a 0.7. We're not overdosing because fluoride is a poison, so we're on the cautious side right now. There are two separate things, one is the test result that we're getting from the State and the other is the overdosing problem that we're having with the pump. The highest fluoride was 1.2 and the maximum is a 1.0. That occurred on the 31<sup>st</sup> and it had been fairly steady. Both of the times that we got high numbers, we

immediately unplugged the pump and took a sample at several places in Town verifying that most of them were in the 0.5 to 0.6 range.

Arneson: The range is 0.6 to 1.0 with the optimal level being a 0.7.

Cote: The discrepancy is to figure out why we're getting low numbers at the State. We're doing everything the same for a year now and we just had the issue in the past two weeks. I've asked the State to buy us a new dosing pump, it's like \$1,300, they're supposed to supply it to us.

### **Update on staffing**

Cote: We hired a new guy, Michael Coyle, he is from Ferrisburgh. He's a firefighter and has a farm background but has also worked in construction and is mechanically inclined. He finds a way to get it done or asks the right questions. I think he is going to be a great asset. We're going back into the packet and see if we might fulfill another job.

### **Consideraion of approval of Residuals Management Participation Agreement with the Chittenden Solid Waste District**

[https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2023/1/4d1\\_COMPARE - Participation Agreement - 2023 DRAFT-10025240-v1 and Participation Agreement - 2023 DRAFT.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2023/1/4d1_COMPARE_-_Participation_Agreement_-_2023_DRAFT-10025240-v1_and_Participation_Agreement_-_2023_DRAFT.pdf)

[https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2023/1/4d2\\_CSWD\\_Second\\_Amendment\\_to\\_Services\\_Agreement\\_v2\\_Fully\\_Executed.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2023/1/4d2_CSWD_Second_Amendment_to_Services_Agreement_v2_Fully_Executed.pdf)

Arneson: About a year ago CSWD was going through the process of looking at other options besides Casella for disposal of solid waste. They looked at a few different providers and determined that Casella was the best option pricewise even with proposed rate increases after the term of the five years. The board sent in a letter to agree to that a few months ago and CSWD has upgraded their agreement to extend it for five years with Casella. Now they're going to individual wastewater treatment facilities to sign on to an agreement, it's really just the dates and timeline updates.

*Sander moved to approve the Residuals Management Participation Agreement with the Chittenden Solid Waste District and to appoint Town Manager Josh Arneson as the duly authorized representative. Hill seconded.*

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

### **Consideration of remaining as a participant in two PFAS Class Action Law Suits**

[https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2023/1/4f1\\_DEC - Info-PFAS-MDL-Settlements.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2023/1/4f1_DEC_-_Info-PFAS-MDL-Settlements.pdf)

[https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2023/1/4f2\\_3M\\_Class\\_Action.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2023/1/4f2_3M_Class_Action.pdf)

[https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2023/1/4f3\\_Dupont Classs Action Suit.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2023/1/4f3_Dupont_Classs_Action_Suit.pdf)

Arneson: There are two class action lawsuits against 3M and Dupont. I did ask our attorney for some advice on what we should do here. If we stay in these suits, we're entitled to some amount of compensation when it comes to fruition. There is another suit that Vermont is bringing, but that is in the early stages. If we participate in the two national suits, there's a potential that we wouldn't be able to participate in the Vermont suit. The advice is stick with what we got here, really not knowing the potential.

Cote: In 2020, the the regular PFAS test was 0.01 over the limit, it tripped into testing every year. The next test was a negative, no detect. The second one has been a no detect and we're on schedule to do one this year.

Sander: To be clear, being 0.01 over means that's what Vermont determined the level that requires monitoring, much lower than the EPA and federal guidelines.

Cote: The research that the State of Vermont has done with New Hampshire has shown it to be higher levels in residential areas, than in commercial, processing or manufacturing. All of our wastewater is now getting tested, the influent and effluent that we're dumping out. In New Hampshire, they found it in high levels in the middle of the White Forest, the only way it could have gotten there was rain.

*Sander moved that the Town continues participation in the PFAS class action suits against 3M and DuPont. Furr seconded.*

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

**Consideration of changing the date of the first Water and Sewer Commission meeting in January from January 1, 2024 to another date**

*Furr moved to change the date of the first Water and Sewer Commission meeting in January to Tuesday, January 2, 2024 due to the New Year's Day holiday on Monday, January 1, 2024. Sander seconded.*

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

**Review of list of water and wastewater items to be repaired or replaced**

Timestamp:

[https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2023/11-3-23.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2023/11-3-23.pdf)

Cote: We're moving forward with the press project. We went to a trade show at the DoubleTree in Burlington and the engineers were there and took us around and showed us the new influent pumps and bar screens. We're doing a lot of household cleaning, sprucing up trying to get ready for winter.

**Update on contracting for water meters**

Arneson: I have feedback from Zenner on our changes and I need to review that with our attorney.

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246 **Update on Water Service Line Inventory**  
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248 Arneson: There are 334 of 355 connections in the system confirmed nonlead, leaving 21  
249 unclassified. Of the unclassified connections, 14 are ready for a second round of door-to-  
250 door inspections in the coming weeks. Seven of them are meter accounts and serve  
251 unknown addresses and he's working with Steve to figure out the addresses to try to  
252 complete this by the end of the year.  
253

254 Cote: We are going to try to update some of the information that we have. When we read  
255 the meters, the name on our meter sheet corresponds to probably 30 years ago, whoever  
256 was living in that house. With everything computerized, we need to know who's living  
257 there. Especially with the smart meters, if we detect a water break or a water leak, who  
258 do we contact? We have 911 addresses for all the accounts, and I gave them all that  
259 information.  
260

261 **Discuss Items for Next Agenda:**

- 262 \*Follow up on Gateway and Richmond Land Trust  
263 \*Tilden Line and Service Line replacements (Tyler)  
264 \*Water Meter contract  
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266 **Adjournment**  
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268 *Furr moved to adjourn. Sander seconded.*

269 *Roll Call Vote: Farr, Hill, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*  
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271 Meeting adjourned at: 6:56 PM  
272

273 **Chat file from Zoom:** None  
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