

1 **Town of Richmond**  
2 **Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission**  
3 **Minutes of January 16, 2024**  
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; Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town  
10 Manager; Steve Cote, Water Resources  
11

12 **Others Present:** The meeting was recorded for MMCTV, Caller 18023241536, Ian  
13 Bender, Jeanne Agner  
14

15 **MMCTV Video:** <https://youtu.be/C2nyhuP0QhQ?si=4dthS-vibseKlvRP>  
16

17 **Call to Order: 6:01 pm**  
18

19 **Welcome:** Wolaver  
20

21 **Public Comment:**  
22

23 Wolaver: It's beautiful snow outside but slippery so be careful. Even when you push the  
24 button to cross the street, don't trust the cars that are trying to slow down because one slid  
25 right past me.  
26

27 **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:** None  
28

29 **Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders**  
30

31 **Minutes:**  
32

33 *Hill moved to approve the Minutes of 1/2/24 meeting as presented. Farr seconded.*  
34 *Roll Call Vote: Farr, Hill, Wolaver in favor. Furr, Sander absent. Motion approved.*  
35

36 **Warrants:**  
37

38 *Furr moved to approve the 1/16/24 Warrants as presented. Farr seconded.*  
39 *Roll Call Vote: Farr, Furr, Hill, Wolaver in favor. Sander absent. Motion approved.*  
40

41 **Purchase Orders:** None  
42

43 **Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present**  
44

45 **Review of 60% report of 20 Year Wastewater Evaluation and discussion of moving**  
46 **forward with the Preliminary Engineering Report and submittal to the Clean Water**  
47 **State Revolving Fund Priority List**

48 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2024/0](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2024/0)

49 1/4a1 Richmond WWTF 20 Year Evaluation - 60 Submittal - Updated 01-11-  
50 24 - reduced file.pdf  
51 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\_Sewer\_Commission/Meetings/2024/0  
52 1/4a2- Richmond Construction Cost Estimate - 60 PER 12-30-23.pdf

53  
54 Arneson: The 60% report has more detail and more specific suggestions, as well as a  
55 draft budget. This is not finished, there's still time to make changes based on the  
56 recommendations. We submitted to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund from the state  
57 as a priority list for funding in the future through CWSRF loans.

58  
59 Cote: The next thing due is the 75% around the first of April, there's a 90%, which is  
60 early summer, and then 100% around September. I'm not 100% on those dates.

61  
62 Arneson: If we wanted to fund the influent pumps, being on the priority list allows us to  
63 get to that vote in November.

64  
65 Cote: Construction bids are going out in 2025 with 2026 construction. Going forward,  
66 we have the ability to choose different processes, a low end of \$15 million and a higher  
67 end of \$17 million. It's a big project and our treatment plant works, we have really good  
68 removal of nutrients and stuff that we don't need to screw it up. I want the due diligence  
69 of doing the research, making sure that this stuff is the way we need to go into the future.

70  
71 Arneson: There are other grant programs out there that might be available to us to  
72 access. Hoyle-Tanner will help us search those out and put together those applications.  
73 Because we're taking so much septage, the State is very interested in maintaining that  
74 volume, if not increasing it so there will probably be money available that we can find.

75  
76 Hill: With new legislative regulatory obligations for accessory dwelling units, it is  
77 plausible to expect that there will be increased customers connected to the system.

78  
79 Cote: The report was very comprehensive. We asked them if there was space to include a  
80 basically a 15-foot-wide addition onto their addition so we could have a bay to park the  
81 skid steer and storage. They modified the plans to include that. The two major things  
82 that they included were relocation or redesign of a new pump station on Bridge St for  
83 pumping sewage across the bridge. There was also the relocation of our forced main, it  
84 would be up high where the water line and try to locate it out of the danger zone. If the  
85 pump station stays where it is, it would be totally submersible pumps so they're still  
86 going to work. One of the pricier parts is putting the rake screen in front of the influent  
87 pumps to protect them from all the debris and stuff. They will design a pure grit screen  
88 to take out the grit in the sediment before it goes into the head works. You go from  
89 having three different separate items working to do the job of just our compressor. I have  
90 a lot of questions on if the compressor screws up or the valve bank screws up. The other  
91 thing that scares me is we would be the first ones in Vermont converting to this process.  
92 The two blowers for the fish and aeration tank are in desperate need of upgrade. They  
93 would manifold the piping so that we could actually operate both aeration tanks at the  
94 same time. If the Town is expanding in the future, and you need to operate both things at  
95 the same time. The clarifiers and the filter tanks, they're going to leave the same but do  
96 some upgrades. There is an upgrade to the UV channel, we're going from a 10 bank to an  
97 8 bank, it'll be a better power savings with the same coverage. They will put in a wet

98 well for the effluent coming out of the plant with one pipe going to the river, with a back  
99 flow preventer. That will eliminate any of the current problems that we have discharging  
100 over the fence. We have talked with Efficiency Vermont about the possibility of using  
101 the effluent well as a source for heat pumps and getting our heat back into the plant. The  
102 stormwater covers are not covered in this report but we can do it ourselves and maybe  
103 pick five covers a year.

104

105 Hill: A comment on the covers is to be aware of unintended consequences like backing  
106 up into people's homes. The hydraulic elevation and pressure are something to be aware  
107 of as we contemplate manhole covers.

108

109 Arneson: Part of the study is an upgrade to the septage receiving area, we'll have the  
110 ability to have a meter on it.

111

112 Cote: There was no part of that report that said you need to upgrade this because there's a  
113 problem. The only two things were the pump station and then the line across the bridge,  
114 basically a part of the collection system, that needs to be fixed. We had Diamond maps  
115 started, they used a simple tablet as a GPS locator and it is not exact enough for the  
116 coordinates, it's a 25 foot circle. All the information that the engineers did for the  
117 manholes are accurate, but they are not compatible with the Diamond program.

118

#### 119 **Update on repair of wastewater line under the Bridge St. bridge that was damaged** 120 **in the December flooding**

121

122 Cote: The company that puts staging under the bridge took 3-4 days, they were able to  
123 heat the section that was damaged to bring it mostly back to its original shape. They  
124 installed a big stainless-steel band around with a rubber seal. They replaced one of the  
125 hangers that was completely damaged and straightened. It's hanging back in good shape,  
126 I think we're okay until we relocate. The pipe is called Yelomine, a type of PVC very  
127 flexible and forgiving and used in bridge crossings. There's some forgiveness in  
128 expansion and contraction, what happens with the sag is that it just naturally comes back.

129

#### 130 **Review of December water data**

131

132 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2024/0](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2024/01/4c_Monthly_Water_Report_for_Dec._2023.pdf)  
133 [1/4c Monthly Water Report for Dec. 2023.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2024/01/4c_Monthly_Water_Report_for_Dec._2023.pdf)

134

135 Cote: After the flood, we installed the new fluoride pump and we are struggling really  
136 hard to get our fluoride numbers back to 0.7. We're running the pump at a at a 90% and  
137 the State's telling me you should only have to run that at like 60%. I'm confident that  
138 we're going to get it back. The chlorine numbers are down in December, they're still well  
139 above what the State wants us to have but there was a large amount of sediment. We  
140 disposed of all the chlorine, all the sediment, washed it all out, and then put it back in  
141 fresh. It looks good, it's working good and our chlorine numbers for the month of  
142 January are right there. There's always been chlorine in the water, it's always been  
143 disinfected.

144

#### 145 **Update on water service line inventory and on water meters**

146

147 Cote: We've got a meeting on Thursday for the service line inventory. Our laboratory  
148 equipment for the State, we've had to order some. We will be in violation if we can't do  
149 our testing.

150

151 **Discuss Items for Next Agenda:**

152 \*20-Year Upgrade Study

153 \*Repairs

154 \*Service Line Inventory

155 \*Tank Inspection

156 \*2025 Draft Budget

157

158 **Adjournment**

159

160 *Sander moved to adjourn. Furr seconded.*

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

162

163 Meeting adjourned at: 6:58 pm

164

165 **Chat file from Zoom:** None

166