

1 **Town of Richmond**  
2 **Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission**  
3 **Minutes of August 11, 2025**  
4

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

7 **Members Absent:** None  
8

9 **Staff Present:** Superintendent Steve Cote; Town Manager Josh Arneson; Deputy Town  
10 Manager Duncan Wardwell  
11

12 **Others Present:** The meeting was recorded for MMCTV Erin Wagg  
13

14 **MMCTV Video:** MMCTV Erin Wagg  
15 [https://youtu.be/OUwiP633I\\_M?si=Ndf0wtSbLzaGapsM](https://youtu.be/OUwiP633I_M?si=Ndf0wtSbLzaGapsM)  
16

17 **Call to Order:** 6:00 pm  
18

19 **Welcome:** Wolaver  
20

21 **Public Comment:** None  
22

23 **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:** Hill suggested an addendum to item (d) on what  
24 degree are they willing to support people in adding additional curb stops to the waterline.  
25

26 **Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders**  
27

28 **Minutes:**  
29

30 *Hill moved to approve the minutes of July 14th, 2025. Sander seconded.*

31 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Farr, Furr, Sander, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.*  
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33 *Sander moved to approve the minutes of July 21st, 2025. Hill seconded.*

34 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Farr, Furr, Sander, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.*  
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36 **Warrants:**  
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38 *Sander moved to approve the Warrants as presented. Furr seconded.*

39 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Farr, Furr, Sander, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.*  
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41 **Purchase Orders:** None  
42

43 **Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present**  
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49 **Reorganization of Water and Sewer Commission**

50 Timestamp: 0:04

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52 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Furr, Farr, Hill, Sander

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54 *Furr move to appoint Morgan Wolaver as Chair of the Water and Sewer Commission.*

55 *Farr seconded.*

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

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58 *Hill moved to appoint Erin Farr as Vice Chair of the Water and Sewer Commission.*

59 *Sander seconded.*

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

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63 **Consideration of approving a no cost change order to the engineering for the 20**  
64 **year study**

65 Timestamp: 0:06

66 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2025/07/4b1\\_Richmond\\_WWTF\\_Step\\_1-\\_\\_Amendment\\_2\\_-\\_Scope\\_Update\\_-7-18-2025.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2025/07/4b1_Richmond_WWTF_Step_1-__Amendment_2_-_Scope_Update_-7-18-2025.pdf)

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68 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2025/07/4b2\\_Richmond\\_WWTF\\_Step\\_1\\_-\\_Amendment\\_1\\_-\\_Fully\\_Executed.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2025/07/4b2_Richmond_WWTF_Step_1_-_Amendment_1_-_Fully_Executed.pdf)

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People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Arneson, Farr

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Arneson summarized that the engineers went a bit over budget so they wanted to push some of the work to the Step 2 agreement but that doesn't have the 50% forgiveness.

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Arneson stated that they do have \$19,000 left in the cap for 50% forgiveness. At the next meeting, they will have a clear explanation of what will be bumped to Step 2.

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**Update on discussions regarding bond re-payment**

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Timestamp: 0:09

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People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Arneson, Sander, Cote, Hill, Farr, Furr

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Wolaver summarized meetings with Hoyle Tanner in regard to the wastewater upgrade.

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They are inputting data into spreadsheets. One spreadsheet will keep the septage the same and the other will show the potential of increasing it. Cote estimated that they

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would be taking 60,000 gallons a day of septage in the next few weeks because

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Montpelier and Essex are closed. Wolaver confirmed that they are looking at different scenarios like moderate increases over 3 years and then dropping down to inflationary increases.

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93

Hill suggested that they bring back the variables that could influence the repayment. Hill

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95

stated that if the State wants them to receive septage then they should show some

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financial incentives.

Cote described that he worked with engineers to prioritize the influent pumps, flood

98 mitigation, septage receiving, and dewatering. Cote stated that the Hoyle Tanner's  
99 modeling system was really good.

100

101 **Update on easement obtainment for the Tilden Ave., Bridge St., and Cochran Rd.**  
102 **Waterline Replacement Project**

103 Timestamp: 0:23

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105 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Cote, Arneson, Hill, Farr, Furr, Sander

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107 Cote confirmed that they handed out 18 out of the 23 total. They need a notary to sign it  
108 so only 1 had been turned in so far. Cote stated that there are 3 people who were  
109 wondering about the cost for an additional curb stop. Hill suggested providing a cost  
110 estimate. Cote estimated that it is \$480 for a meter setup but it has changed. Hill stated  
111 that if people do not have an ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit) then they can cap the curb  
112 stop and cap the supply line. Cote stated that they would have to buy an allocation for a  
113 curb stop but he will double check the requirements. Arneson suggested that if people  
114 are allowed to put in a curb stop without an allocation, then they should put something in  
115 writing that says it does not guarantee the allocation unless you pay an annual fee. Farr  
116 pointed out that the allocation is based on sewer so that complicates it even more. Cote  
117 stated that this is just the water end of it and people will still need to dig and make a  
118 connection for sewer. Wolaver suggested some form of communication that provides  
119 ballpark costs and other things to consider.

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122 **Review of July water data**

123 Timestamp: 0:41

124 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2025/0](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2025/07/4e_Monthly_Water_Report_for_July_2025.pdf)  
125 [7/4e\\_Monthly\\_Water\\_Report\\_for\\_July\\_2025.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2025/07/4e_Monthly_Water_Report_for_July_2025.pdf)

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127 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Cote, Farr

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129 Cote stated that the chlorine pump has been an issue. Cote stated that they added some  
130 fluoride to the saturator.

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133 **Superintendent's Report**

134 Timestamp: 0:43

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136 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Cote, Arneson, Sander, Furr, Hill

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138 Cote summarized that every day there is something else broken at the plant. The  
139 dewatering facility came to a stop last week due the problems with the agitator getting  
140 rags on it. Cote stated they are looking to put a patch on the tank or getting a 1,500-  
141 gallon tank in a different space. Currently, they are using some plumbing to suck directly  
142 out of the digester.

143

144 Cote reviewed the quotes for the aerator where one was over \$100,000 for just the  
145 materials and the other one was \$25,000. He is waiting for one more quote to come back.

146

147 Cote stated that they ordered the parts to fix the filter tanks.  
148  
149 Cote thinks that the bigger problem is the septage they are receiving with rags and grit  
150 that create issues down the road.  
151  
152 Cotes stated that there is a job applicant coming to tour the plant.  
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155 **Discuss Items for Next Agenda:**  
156 -Regular meeting on Monday  
157 -Bond repayment meeting on Tuesday  
158 -Curb stops  
159 -Huntington Rd  
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162 **Adjournment**  
163  
164 *Sander moved to adjourn. Hill seconded.*  
165 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Farr, Sander, Wolaver in favor. Furr not in favor. Motion*  
166 *approved.*  
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169 **Meeting adjourned at: 7:04 pm**  
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171  
172 **Chat file from Zoom: None**