

**Town of Richmond**  
**Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission**  
**Minutes of January 20, 2026**

**Members Present:** Bard Hill, Erin Farr, David Sander, Greg Rabideau, Morgan Wolaver

### **Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Town Manager Josh Arneson; Duncan Wardwell, Deputy Town Manager; Steve Cote, Water Resources Superintendent

**Others Present:** The meeting was recorded for MMCTV Erin Wagg, 14693373003  
Daniel, Mary Houle, Noah Dew

**MMCTV Video:** <https://youtu.be/Ugk2xUoOB3M?si=mzPoe7TuIlzWM7Fc>

## Call to Order: 6:00 pm

## Welcome: Wolaver

**Public Comment:** Cote welcomed Rabideau as a new member.

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

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

## Minutes:

*Hill moved to approve the minutes of January 5, 2026. Sander seconded*

Roll Call Vote: Farr, Hill, Sander, Rabideau, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.

### Purchase Orders: None

## Warrants:

*Farr moved to approve the Warrants as presented. Sander seconded*

Farr moved to approve the Warrants as presented. Sander seconded.  
Roll Call Vote: Farr, Hill, Sander, Rabideau, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.

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

## **Update on Zenner customer online water usage accounts**

Timestamp: 0:03

Daniel presented the current look of the dashboard. Hill stated that his dashboard did not look that way when he checked an hour ago. The y-axis values did not have values that went high enough. The x-axis showed the same 12 AM to 7 PM values if viewing day.

49 month, or year. Cote said they should be dealing with units of gallons and not kilo-  
50 gallons. Arneson thought the listed numbers for kilo-gallons were just a scale of x10 off  
51 (so 1.3 k-gal would really be 13 gallons). Arneson and Wolaver also observed that the  
52 hours looked like GMT. Arneson stated that he will look at it again tomorrow, once he  
53 makes the changes.

54  
55 Daniel presented how there is a rollout for analysis of leaks based on different periods of  
56 consumption.

57  
58 Cote reviewed the customers concerns about their bill not matching the values in the  
59 portal. The customers wonder if it is a portal or meter problem. The customers'  
60 confidence in the system is down because the portals are not working right. Daniel  
61 suggested taking screenshots of their portals to send to him.

62  
63  
64 **Review of December water data**

65 Timestamp: 0:27

66 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2026/01/4b\\_Monthly\\_Water\\_Report\\_December\\_2025.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2026/01/4b_Monthly_Water_Report_December_2025.pdf)

67  
68 Farr stated that all the water data is within appropriate ranges.

70  
71  
72 **Superintendent's Report**

73 Timestamp: 0:28

74  
75 Cote stated that they are still struggling with heat due to the circulator pumps from 1972.  
76 Cote stated that he wanted to put in more efficient pumps and would be about \$18,000  
77 apiece for 2 horsepower pumps installed. The natural gas boiler is only 10 years old and  
78 is oversized at a million BTUs.

79  
80 Cote reviewed that there was a breakdown in dewatering due to the shaft. They have the  
81 new liner and are waiting for the screw.

82  
83 Cote stated that the new influent pump is about 85% in place. They are scheduled to shut  
84 down for two weeks in February to install the new control panel and flocculator.

85  
86  
87 **Update on easement obtainment for the Tilden Ave., Bridge St., and Cochran Rd.**  
88 **Waterline Replacement Project**

89 Timestamp: 0:41

90  
91 Arneson stated that they are down to need one easement. Arneson stated that he is  
92 working on outreach for the Property Transfer Tax Returns and should be able to start  
93 gathering information shortly.

94  
95  
96 **Follow up on funding alternatives for the wastewater treatment facility 20 year**  
97 **upgrade**

98      Timestamp: 0:44  
99      [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2026/01/4e1\\_Overview\\_of\\_Alternatives.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2026/01/4e1_Overview_of_Alternatives.pdf)  
101  
102      [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2026/01/4e2\\_Rate\\_Increases\\_for\\_Repayment\\_Alternatives.xlsx](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2026/01/4e2_Rate_Increases_for_Repayment_Alternatives.xlsx)  
104  
105      [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2026/01/4e3\\_User\\_Rate\\_Analysis - V5 - Alt A.xlsx](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2026/01/4e3_User_Rate_Analysis - V5 - Alt A.xlsx)  
107  
108      [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2026/01/4e4\\_User\\_Rate\\_Analysis - V5 - Alt B.xlsx](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2026/01/4e4_User_Rate_Analysis - V5 - Alt B.xlsx)  
110  
111      [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2026/01/4e5\\_User\\_Rate\\_Analysis - V5 - Alt C.xlsx](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2026/01/4e5_User_Rate_Analysis - V5 - Alt C.xlsx)  
113  
114      [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2026/01/4e6\\_User\\_Rate\\_Analysis - V5 - Alt D1.xlsx](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2026/01/4e6_User_Rate_Analysis - V5 - Alt D1.xlsx)  
116  
117      [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2026/01/4e7\\_User\\_Rate\\_Analysis - V5 - Alt D2.xlsx](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2026/01/4e7_User_Rate_Analysis - V5 - Alt D2.xlsx)  
119  
120      [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2026/01/4e8\\_User\\_Rate\\_Analysis - V5 - Alt E1.xlsx](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2026/01/4e8_User_Rate_Analysis - V5 - Alt E1.xlsx)  
122  
123      [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2026/01/4e9\\_User\\_Rate\\_Analysis - V5 - Alt E2.xlsx](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2026/01/4e9_User_Rate_Analysis - V5 - Alt E2.xlsx)  
125  
126      [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2026/01/4e10\\_How\\_to\\_Adopt\\_a\\_Local\\_Option\\_Tax\\_for\\_Vermont\\_towns.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2026/01/4e10_How_to_Adopt_a_Local_Option_Tax_for_Vermont_towns.pdf)  
128  
129      Farr stated that they did a spreadsheet with the school and the municipalities so they  
130      could see how it grows for those average bills. Hill reviewed that you cannot charge  
131      somebody more just because you think they have deep pockets. Arneson reviewed the  
132      different scenarios from the packet. Farr observed that Richmond has small businesses  
133      and they might be paying \$5,000 to use their toilet less than a residential unit does.  
134      Arneson suggested shifting some from the fixed fee to the usage fee. The problem is if  
135      everybody conserves then it collects less money. Hill stated that it would be shifting  
136      within the class as opposed to one class to another. The group discussed some  
137      possibilities with a 1% Option Tax. Wolaver stated that this will be a permanent part of  
138      the agenda.  
139  
140  
141      **Discuss Items for Next Agenda:**  
142      -20-year upgrade funding  
143      -Easements update  
144      -Bids for waterline  
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147 **Adjournment**

148

149 *Farr moved to adjourn. Sander seconded.*

150 *Roll Call Vote: Farr, Hill, Sander, Rabideau, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.*

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152 **Meeting adjourned at: 6:59 pm**

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154 **Chat file from Zoom:** None

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