

Town of Richmond Water and Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes of August 1, 2022

Members Present: Bard Hill, David Sander, Jay Furr, Greg Tucker, Morgan Wolaver

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water Superintendent

Others Present: The meeting was recorded for MMCTV, Bob Reap, Joy Reap, Matt Tourville, Meg Freebern, Harold DeGraaf

Call to Order: 5:30 pm

Welcome by: Sander

Public Comment: None

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda: None

Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

Superintendent's Report

Chamberlin: Marking and remarking on Rt 2 from the West to the East. We were notified that VTrans is digging up to 12 feet deep overnight on August 19, so we are scheduling staff to be on site that evening. We are repainting and renumbering our hydrants. Engineering permit costs more than expected so we should get an application in next meeting.

Hill: It seems like there are many issues communicating with VTrans.

Sander: I share the concerns and thoughts.

Hill: I do not recall a depth of 12-foot depths.

Chamberlin: There are doing their storm line replacements to get that deep. I told Josh and VTrans said they could keep us posted going forward.

Arneson: Kendall has marked the places where they were digging but Kendall wanted more notice as to when they were digging.

Hill: Do we have any site plans from the VTrans stormwater system? I am not sure if the stormwater plans are available overlaid with water and wastewater.

Chamberlin: It has been difficult figuring out when, where and how they are notifying us of their construction project. We try to stay on top of what they are trying to do.

Hill: We should ask for a schematic and site plan at the same scale from VTrans.

Furr: I asked awhile ago to see if a such a document exists, but I was told no.

Arneson: I will double check to see what exists at the VTrans offices.

Sander: Upon completion we should request a subterranean map of the overlay.

Follow up on status of closing the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan for the Bridge St. project

Arneson: The letter from Water and Sewer Commission Chair David Sander to the State spurred movement on this project. I received a follow up call and email from both Roger Bergeron and Cynthia Parks at the Water Investment Division (WID).

I received approvals for Pay Requests #1, #2, and #3. The Pay Requests are requests from the contractor for payment as the job progressed.

DWSRF will not approve Pay Request #4 until they have a few questions answered about the project. Once we satisfy the questions, we will receive sign off on Pay Request #4. They have provided a checklist of questions and we are working on these questions.

Things are moving well, and we should be getting paid soon.

Discussion of extending wastewater to 434 West Main St.

Arneson: Matt Tourville owns the property at 434 West Main St., the location of Resourceful Renovator and two apartments. He would like to explore a connection to the Town wastewater system. Water and Wastewater Superintendent Kendall Chamberlin and I met with Tourville to discuss the options.

Chamberlin noted that the property is part of the original district and therefore the Commission may consider paying for the expansion along Rt. 2 to 430 West Main St. using funds raised from all current system customers. This was the arrangement with the expansion along Cochran Rd.

If the Commission would agree to pay for this portion of the expansion, it would reduce the cost of the expansion to the Reap property and combined with the grant from the Northern Boarder Regional Commission, it may make the expansion to the Reap's affordable.

Chamberlin: The Tourville property is one of the last places in the original district. I think there is some precedence set to consider this expansion. The cost to the new part of the extension might make it more affordable according to the memo.

Reap: How will Heidi Bormann feel about this extension considering they paid for an extension to their property and it is also in the original district?

Chamberlin: That building was not there during the original vote.

Hill: Is the district comprised of buildings or property? We now have a precedent for both sides of the different properties.

Furr: I think the Bormann's would have a legitimate gripe.

Freebern: How do the costs work to connecting to an existing line?

Chamberlin: The costs are paid for by the property owner to connect to an existing line. In the case of the Cochran Rd. expansion, the entire system paid for the expansion and the individual users paid to connect their properties to the line.

Hill: I do not really understand the vote. They think the water district is based on the property not the buildings. They put an extension line from their property to the existing line.

Furr: They would not have to reconnect to a new line.

Hill: What do we want to do about the Water and Sewer Commission to building a line to the boundary of the existing district at 434 West Main Street.

Furr: Would the 2" line work for other expansion?

Chamberlin: A 3" line would be required to expand to the Mobil station.

Hill: The equation with several undefined variables:

- small pipe at 434 West Main
- larger pipe to expanded district.

Furr: Two proposals

- Just 2" line to 434 West Main
- Expanded line to edge of district

Hill: Reap feedback on these options would be helpful. We could get two Water & Sewer Commissioners involved with some details with the Reaps.

Tourville: Tom Carpenter is planning on developing his property which is between me and the Bormann's.

Hill and Sander agreed to meet with Arneson, Chamberlin and the Reaps to discuss the topic in more detail.

Follow up on Gateway Expansion Project

Arneson: Chamberlin and I have been discussing the next steps for a private expansion to the Reap property. This would most likely be utilizing the path from the Schools to the Reap Property. This will be wastewater only. Billing could be accomplished by installing

a master meter on the single, main water supply to the property for billing. The trickier question is addressing how future connectors will "pay back" the Reaps for the cost of the expansion.

- A basic outline of next steps looks like this:
 1. Preliminary allocation requested and granted.
 2. Plans for expansion are presented by the Reaps and reviewed by the Commission
 3. Billing and metering method and responsibilities outlined
 4. Construction with supervision to specifications, force main/pump station.
 5. Master water meter and a wastewater meter are installed
 6. Additional property(s) request connection/extension. Town takes over the expansion before system is extended to additional properties.

Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders

Purchase Orders

Arneson: No purchase orders for this meeting.

Warrants

Walaver moved to approve the Warrants as presented. Hill seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Hill, Furr, Sander, Tucker, Wolaver in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes

Wolaver moved to approve the Minutes of 7/18/22 as presented. Hill seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Hill, Furr, Sander, Tucker, Wolaver in favor. Motion passed.

Discuss Items for Next Agenda and Adjourn

- *Expansion updates
- *Collaboration on VTrans with Rt 2 infrastructure
- *Mystery water line between Jonesville and Bolton?
- *Discussion of a potential sewer line under Rt 2.
- *Reservoir update on painting

Hill: The State of Vermont should be interested in any private water and sewer lines found along Rt. 2. We have an obligation to follow up on this for public health reasons.

Sander: The State and the Health Officer should also follow up with this.

Adjournment

Wolaver moved to adjourn. Hill seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Hill, Furr, Sander, Tucker, Wolaver in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:22 pm

Chat: None