

1 **Town of Richmond**
2 **Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission**
3 **Minutes of May 20, 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
13

14 **MMCTV Video:** <https://youtu.be/t0G6hSD1Idk?si=QLkIfvlAukIYkBXA>
15

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

18 **Welcome:** Wolaver
19

20 **Public Comment:** None
21

22 **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:** None
23

24 **Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders**
25

26 **Minutes:**
27

28 *Sander moved to approve the Minutes of 5/6/24 meeting as presented. Hill seconded.*
29 *Roll Call Vote: Farr, Furr, Hill, Sander, Wolaver. Motion approved.*
30

31 **Purchase Orders:**
32

33 *Hill moved to approve PO# 4873 to Union Bank for Water Tank GAP Loan for not to*
34 *exceed \$26,877.99. Sander seconded.*
35 *Roll Call Vote: Farr, Furr, Hill, Sander, Wolaver. Motion approved.*
36

37 **Warrants:**
38

39 *Sander moved to approve the 5/20/24 Warrants as presented. Hill seconded.*
40 *Roll Call Vote: Farr, Furr, Hill, Sander, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.*
41

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

44 **Reminder of applications for Water and Sewer Commissioners and of Annual**
45 **Meeting scheduled for May 21, 2024**

46 **Timestamp:** 0:04
47

48 **People who participated in discussion:** Wolaver, Arneson
49

50 Wolaver reminded the Commission of the applications and Annual Meeting.

51

52 **Recognition of awards from Green Mountain Water Environment Association**

53 Timestamp: 0:05

54

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

56

57 Wolaver recognized the hard work of the Water & Sewer Department. Cote reviewed
58 that it's not just him, it's Brad and Mike. Wolaver appreciated the integrity of doing a
59 great job and the number of hours. Arneson read the awards:

60 -Michael J. Garofano Water Operator of the Year Award: **Steve Cote**

61 -Bob Wood Young Professionals Award: **Brad Snow**

62 -Facility Excellence Award for Water: **Richmond Water Resources**

63 -Facility Excellence Award for Wastewater: **Richmond Water Resources**

64

65 **Review of April 2024 Water Data**

66 Timestamp: 0:10

67 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2024/0](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2024/05/4c_Monthly_Water_Report_for_April_2024.pdf)
68 [5/4c_Monthly_Water_Report_for_April_2024.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2024/05/4c_Monthly_Water_Report_for_April_2024.pdf)

69

70 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Cote, Arneson, Hill

71

72 Cote stated that they have figured it out and can maintain levels with no drop-offs. Cote
73 reviewed that it used to be a 6-hour a day job over at the Waterhouse but now is 15
74 minutes. Cote summarized that the 0 Gallons Produced is when he does not turn the
75 pump on to transfer the fluoride to the day tank and fill up the chlorine tanks so they
76 settle out.

77

78 **Consideration of approval or increase in FY25 pay grid**

79 Timestamp: 0:14

80

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

82

83 Arneson reviewed the compensation study from two years ago and the plan is to continue
84 to stay on top of the Consumer Price Index for the pay grade. Arneson stated the New
85 England figure is 3.2% increase from April 2023 to April 2024 and the budget that we
86 have right now is built on a 3% increase.

87

88 *Furr moved to increase the pay grid by 3%. Hill seconded.*

89 *Roll Call Vote follows discussion.*

90

91 *Furr amended his motion to increase the pay grid by 3.2%. Hill seconded.*

92 *Roll Call Vote follows discussion.*

93

94 Arneson stated that he should have an updated budget ready for the May 21 Annual
95 Meeting to see the impact of the 0.2% increase.

96

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

98

99 **Superintendent's Report**

100 Timestamp: 0:24

101

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

103

104 Cote reviewed it was a trying couple of weeks but they took 250,000 gallons of septic last
105 week due to many other plants being down.

106

107 Cote stated that they had a polymer problem once before the flood that has caused all of
108 the solids coming into the plant to flocculate and condensed but a salesman was going to
109 verify that everything is working right.

110

111 Cote summarized that Giroux's is working on building a bar rack where they can go
112 down with a rake and a five gallon pail to clean it off. Cote reviewed that the wet well
113 was designed with rebar racks in place and was used as an equalization basin. Cote
114 summarized that bar racks are standard practice at a lot of plants to protect the influent
115 pumps. Cote stated the dimensions of the bar rack as ~ 18 by 20 by 26 inches.

116

117 Cote summarized that Rural Water thought that everything they had done was right with
118 the plant as they can't argue with crystal clear effluent.

119

120 Cote reviewed the 328 water meters that arrived last week, and the infrastructure will
121 arrive the first week of June.

122

123 Cote stated that the December floods showed that they have a good handle on what's
124 going on to put 1.4 million gallons through that plant in a day.

125

126 Cote confirmed that the microbiology is 100% back to normal but is not acting the same
127 as it was as far as the dissolved oxygen.

128

129 Cote confirmed that they are working on writing down a flood reaction protocol that will
130 also be digitized. Cote summarized that they could eliminate boiled water for up to 10
131 days before that tank is empty and they need to be up and running.

132

133 **Update on water tank inspection**

134 Timestamp: 0:45

135

136 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Arneson, Cote

137

138 Arneson reviewed that they noticed that there were some cracks and Tyler would be able
139 to update on June 3 or 17. Arneson summarized a joint meeting between their attorneys
140 to talk about next steps to look at the designs, the contract, and the independent
141 engineer's report. Cote confirmed that there are companies that do this job of sealing the
142 tanks from the inside while they're full. Hill suggested inviting Don Morin to address
143 concerns about the tank.

144

145 **Update on next steps for 20 Year Wastewater Treatment Facility study**

146 Timestamp: 0:49

147

148 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Arneson, Hill, Cote

149

150 Arneson reviewed that Hoyle-Tanner is done with the preliminary engineering report of
151 the study and the next step is to move on to public outreach and a bond vote. Arneson
152 summarized that they might be able to talk about some possible subsidies, but they can't
153 promise anything until later date but they do have an application for Congressionally
154 directed spending.

155

156 Hill stated that the State folks were supportive and enthusiastic about maintaining our
157 wastewater treatment capacity for septic haulers.

158

159 Cote stated that it is only a matter of time before a septic company says they can make
160 money at this and put in their own processing plant as they have them in Canada.

161

162 **Update on status of Tilden Ave. Bridge St. and Cochran Rd. waterline replacement**
163 **project**

164 Timestamp: 0:52

165

166 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Arneson

167

168 Arneson reviewed the goal is to get that approved in the next couple of months, go out to
169 bid by the fall, and start construction next spring.

170

171 **Update on applications for fourth water and wastewater position**

172 Timestamp: 0:54

173

174 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Arneson

175

176 Arneson stated that there is not an update at this point.

177

178 **Discuss Items for Next Agenda:**

179 *ARPA funds update

180 *Tank follow up

181

182 **Adjournment**

183

184 *Sander moved to adjourn. Hill seconded.*

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

186

187 Meeting adjourned at: 6:56 pm

188

189 **Chat file from Zoom:**

190 00:10:21 Duncan Wardwell: The camera for the room is not on

191 00:10:34 Duncan Wardwell: Got it

192

193