

1 **Town of Richmond**
2 **Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission**
3 **Minutes of July 15, 2024**
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5 **Members Present:** Bard Hill, Erin Farr, Jay Furr, Lisa Miller, Morgan Wolaver

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7 **Members Absent:** None

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9 **Staff Present:** Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town
10 Manager; Linda Parent, Town Clerk; Steve Cote, Water Resources

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12 **Others Present:** The meeting was recorded for MMCTV, David Sander, Gary Bressor,
13 Mary Houle

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15 **MMCTV Video:** <https://youtu.be/nLr3yfarVrU?si=tr46vCDj2Neghnwo>

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

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19 **Welcome:** Wolaver

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21 **Public Comment:**

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23 Bressor suggested a solution to the water that collects at the base of the Round Church by
24 putting in a 6- to 8-inch line from the low spot that could drain before everything dies.
25 Farr suggested calling an excavation place ASAP and then think about doing it more
26 permanent. Arneson confirmed that the Fire Department and the Zoning Administrator
27 were also following up on this.

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

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

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33 **Minutes:**

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35 *Hill moved to approve the Minutes as presented on 7/1/24. Miller seconded.*
36 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Farr, Furr, Miller, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.*

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38 **Purchase Orders:**

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40 *Miller moved to approve PO# 4974 to Simpleroute for FY25 IT Services for not to exceed*
41 *\$22,440.00 (or \$99 per month for Water and \$231 per month for Wastewater). Hill*
42 *seconded.*
43 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Farr, Furr, Miller, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.*

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45 **Warrants:**

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47 *Farr moved to approve the 7/15/24 Warrants as presented. Hill seconded.*
48 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Farr, Furr, Miller, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.*

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Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

Update on flood recovery

Timestamp: 0:12

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

Cote reviewed that they had 2.5- to 3-feet of water in the basement, dangerously close to the backwash pumps in the filter room. Cote stated that now the plant is in good shape but the flood washed out of all the micro-organisms so they may have to bring in sludge.

Cote reviewed that the pump station is a complete loss, and the alternative is P&P Septic pumping and dumping every five hours or about 3500 gallons. Cote confirmed that Hoyle Tanner is pushing for flood mitigation by moving the pump station to a higher location. Cote suggested using sealed manholes but that their manholes were not discharging this time. Cote stated that to leave the pump station where it is without doing anything is ignorant as they are lucky, they saved it twice. Cote stated that they are trying to get at least one part of the pump station up and running.

Cote stated that they shut off the water house at 10 PM that night so they are operating out of the tank which is down to 16.2 feet. Cote summarized that the clear well was inundated, full of silt and they pumped it out and shocked it. Cote stated the samples failed this weekend, but another sample was taken this morning. Cote stated that the transponder in the clear well failed but was replaced today.

Cote reviewed that most pump stations are now submersible pumps with no confined space and if they are moving the pump station then they are looking at a new modern style pump station.

Review of June water data

Timestamp: 0:35

[https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water Sewer Commission/Meetings/2024/07/4c_Monthly_Water_Report_for_June_2024.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2024/07/4c_Monthly_Water_Report_for_June_2024.pdf)

People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Cote

Cote reviewed that their fluoride number is rock solid at a seven and the State would like a little lower on the chlorine numbers.

Follow up on inspection of cracking in water tank

Timestamp: 0:36

People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Arneson, Cote

Arneson reviewed that their attorney is reaching out to Heritage Engineering to perform an assessment of the severity of any corrective measures.

Superintendent's Report

98 Timestamp: 0:39

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100 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Cote, Furr, Arneson

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102 Cote stated it has been all flood related issues. Cote confirmed that they took 15,000
103 gallons of septage on Saturday. Cote reviewed that Rural Water recommended going to
104 another plant to get some of their sludge and dump it right into our aerated basin. Cote
105 summarized that Brad and Mike have done great work and they are loaning Mike to
106 Highway because he has a CDL.

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108 **Discussion of relocating the dewatering facility to closer to the I89 exit**

109 Timestamp: 0:43

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111 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Cote, Furr, Farr, Arneson, Hill, Miller,
112 Houle

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114 Cote reviewed that this came up at a meeting with the State's plan to have a dewatering
115 plant located closer to the interstate. Farr stated that it doesn't feel like there's many spots
116 closer to the interstate that are available. Hill summarized it sounded like a yellow light
117 if they want and where would it go. Cote stated that as Richmond grows, the current
118 facility is not getting any bigger, but the dewatering plant does not have to be there. Cote
119 reviewed that the State would like a third party to do this, but the Water Commission
120 should not seek to lose control of the septage revenue.

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122 Hill suggested that the prudent course of action is to engage in constructive conversation
123 with the leaders of the Town. Cote confirmed that the smell of a dewatering plant is the
124 same as it smells down at the Volunteers Green, but one of the 20-year proposals is to
125 cover the digester to control the smell. Hill observed an apparent conflict between parts
126 of the State government that would like to see more housing there and those that want a
127 dewatering plant there. Cote confirmed that he will provide a link to the report where
128 they say Richmond is a valued asset.

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130 **Discuss Items for Next Agenda:**

131 *Flood update

132 *Staffing update

133 *Water tank inspection

134 *July Water Quality

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136 **Adjournment**

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138 *Furr moved to adjourn. Miller seconded.*

139 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Farr, Furr, Miller, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.*

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141 Meeting adjourned at: 6:57 pm

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143 **Chat file from Zoom:** None

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