

1 **Town of Richmond**
2 **Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission**
3 **Minutes of August 5, 2024**
4

5 **Members Present:** Bard Hill, Erin Farr, Jay Furr, Lisa Miller, Morgan Wolaver
6

7 **Members Absent:** None
8

9 **Staff Present:** Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town Manager; Linda Parent, Town
10 Clerk; Steve Cote, Water Resources, David Sander
11

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

14 **MMCTV Video:** [Richmond Water-Sewer Cmsn 8-5-2024](#)
15

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

18 **Welcome:** Wolaver

19 We received word from Senator Welch's office that we have been pre-approved of getting
20 \$1,250,000 for the upgrade to the sewer treatment facility.
21

22 **Public Comment:**
23

24 **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:** Miller posed a question that the Housing
25 Committee would like to know what sort of plans are in effect for a sewer extension by
26 the Sewer Commission. Moved to end of the meeting.
27

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

29 Timestamp: 0:02
30

31 **Minutes:**
32

33 *Miller moved to approve the Minutes as presented on 7/15/24. Farr seconded.*

34 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Farr, Furr, Miller, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved. (0:03)*
35

36 **Warrants:**
37

38 *Hill moved to approve the 8/5/24 Warrants as presented. Miller seconded.*

39 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Farr, Furr, Miller, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved (0:04).*
40

41 **Purchase Orders:**
42

43 *Furr moved to approve PO# 4743 to P&P Septic for Flood Pumping Failed Pump
44 Station not to exceed \$32,455.00. Farr seconded.*

45 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Farr, Furr, Miller, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.*
46

47 *Hill moved to approve PO# 5010 to Hoyle Tanners & Associates Inc for 20-Year
48 Evaluation 2nd Phase not to exceed \$81,500.00. Furr seconded.*

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

50

51 *Miller moved to approve PO# 5014 to Hoyle Tanners & Associates Inc for Influent Pump*
52 *Replacement not to exceed \$26,033.00. Furr seconded.*

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

54

55 Cote explained Pump is needed now, despite being part of a 20-year upgrade it will be
56 used immediately as well as once we go to a 3-pump system.

57

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

59

60 **Consideration of moving the first meeting in September to Tuesday, September 3 to** 61 **account for the Labor Day holiday on Monday, September 2**

62 Timestamp: 0:08

63

64 *Farr moved to hold the first Water and Sewer Commission meeting in September on*
65 *Tuesday, September 3, 2024, to account for the Labor Day holiday on Monday,*
66 *September 2, 2024. Miller seconded.*

67

68 **Update on flood recovery**

69 Timestamp: 0:08

70

71 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Cote, Farr, Hill, Miller, Wardwell, Furr

72

73 Cote reported that the pump station was a complete loss this time, both compressors, both
74 motors, some of the check valves even failed. Phil Laramie has taken two broken pumps
75 and created one working pump which has helped us limp along. Two new motors have
76 been purchased. The other two will be rebuilt to be used as replacements if this happens
77 again. The sewer line under the bridge has been holding since its repair last December,
78 but it is going to need to be fixed again soon, approx. \$50,000. Farr asked what the
79 damage to the sewer line this time was, and Cote explained that every hanger is bent to
80 the side so that the sewer line is out of pitch.

81 Cote continued stating that Hoyle Tanner (pump station expert) has been out and we are
82 looking at other options such as directional boring underneath the Winooski and not
83 having a pump station at all or moving to an overwatch system that gives more flow,
84 making the current cover more watertight, or burying the sewer line under the Winooski.
85 The compressors can be mounted above ground, but we would need a building for that.
86 Dan Pratt is working on an estimate for raising the control panel five feet. We need to
87 make the pump station safer. Permitting the process for directional boring is arduous.
88 Total damage from this past flood is estimated to total \$100,000 – that we are expecting
89 to get refunded by FEMA. Wardwell said that RFP has not yet been put out for repairs
90 needed to the sewer line under the bridge presently. Cote continued that scaffolding alone
91 is \$30,000 to repair the six” sewer line. One suggestion he made is to move the sewer line
92 to the sidewalk side of the bridge, which is a bit higher than where it is now. Farr
93 mentioned that directional boring is expensive, but from her experience worthwhile. Hill
94 pointed out that all these expenses should be FEMA reimbursed. Cote will update the
95 board again at the next meeting.

96

97 **Follow up on inspection of cracking in water tank**

98 Timestamp: 0:28

99

100 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Cote, Wardwell, Hill, Miller, Farr
101 Wardwell explained Heritage engineering will inspect the tank and give us an estimate,
102 then we can determine if we want to go forward with a lawsuit. Hill stated that we are
103 looking for a forensic engineer, which is a specialized area.

104

105 **Review of July water data**

106 Timestamp: 0:30

107 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2024/08/4d_Monthly_Water_Report_July_2024.pdf

108

109
110 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Cote
111 Cote continued that elevated chlorine levels have gone back to normal levels. Fluoride
112 does not dissipate over time like chlorine does. Water numbers are good presently.

113

114 **Update on progress of hiring a fourth staff member**

115 Timestamp: 0:31

116

117 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Cote, Farr, Hill, Furr
118 Cote has five people to interview, but he does not have a phone at the moment his work
119 phone has died, and he is waiting for a replacement. He has been using the landline at the
120 plant.
121 Furr wanted to know if Cote needed a hiring committee to help with interviews. Cote says
122 that he tells all candidates to come to the plant for a tour, which weeds out some people.
123 He has five people presently that he wishes to interview.

124

125 **Superintendent's Report**

126 Timestamp: 0:39

127

128 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Cote, Farr, Miller, Hill
129 Cote elaborated that an aeration tank is finally being used as designed. Trying to pump
130 the sludge off in small batches and feed into the digester. The old tank is being cleaned
131 in-house to make it cheaper.
132 He continued that on the water side twenty-two water meters are installed and all online.
133 Six more are installed but not online yet. People whose water meters have failed; they
134 need to be a bit more willing to schedule a time to get a new meter installed. People will
135 have access to a portal where they can see their respective meters.
136 Hill asked if this new platform has alerts for unusual activity. Farr asked, if we know
137 someone is not home and we see a lot of water usage, will that be caught, and can the
138 water be turned off? Cote said yes, the water can be turned off at the street level.
139 Individual people can see their water usage on a daily basis with the new portal.
140 Cote said 350 total meters will be changed out, estimation is 15 minutes of interruption to
141 the water supply is all that is needed to install this.

142

143 **Additional item added by Miller/Hill**

144 Timestamp: 0:48

145

146 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Miller, Hill, Furr, Farr

147 Hill explained that Water/Sewer ordinance is on the Town of Richmond website. Miller
148 stated that an important part of infrastructure if you want to build housing units or
149 multiple housing developments. Hill continued that towns will not extend a water/sewer
150 line based off spec, so the issue becomes who pays for it. Hill argued that it is the
151 developer most times. Furr mentioned that putting up new housing is hard to do without
152 the possibility of water or sewer. Hill said this may come forth as legislative action; more
153 towns are having this same issue.

154

155 **Discuss Items for Next Agenda:**

156 Total flood costs

157 Staffing

158 Water meter installations

159 Water tank

160

161 **Adjournment**

162

163 *Farr moved to adjourn. Hill seconded.*

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

165

166 Meeting adjourned at: 6:59 pm

167

168 **Chat file from Zoom:**

169 00:45:54 MMCTV Erin: Sign me up!

170

171