

1 **Town of Richmond**
2 **Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission**
3 **Minutes of September 3, 2024**
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5 **Members Present:** Erin Farr, Bard Hill, 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; Steve Cote, Water Resources.
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12 **Others Present:** The meeting was recorded for MMCTV,
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14 **MMCTV Video:** <https://youtu.be/XpK0Pgup744?si=GvbBIA8NPgTVTq-n>
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16 **Call to Order: 6:00 pm**
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18 **Welcome:** Wolaver
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20 **Public Comment:** None
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23 **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:** None
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26 **Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders**
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Timestamp: 0:01
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29 **Minutes:**
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31 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Furr
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33 *Furr moved to approve the Minutes as amended on 09/03/2024. Hill seconded.*
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35 *Roll Call Vote: Farr, Furr, Miller, Hill, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.*
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37 **Purchase Orders:**
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39 *Furr moved to approve purchase order 4754 to Champlin Associates for a new water
40 system monitoring system in an amount not to exceed \$15,629.72. Hill seconded.*

41 *Roll Call Vote: Farr, Furr, Miller, Hill, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.*
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43 **Warrants:**
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45 *Furr moved to approve the Warrants as presented. Miller seconded.*
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Roll Call Vote: Farr, Furr, Miller, Hill, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.

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Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

Review of flood recovery expenses

Timestamp: 0:05

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

Arneson expanded that Phil Laramie is in Town this week and his work should be completed by the end of the week, the estimate for his work being set at \$10,000. The total for wastewater is \$115,000 and \$200 for water. If that holds true, we're still above 15% in unrestricted funds projected for the end of the year, and that's 15% of the budget. We are starting work with FEMA to get reimbursed from this flood. And we did receive money from the last flood for repairing the sewer line under the bridge. So, we do have some money coming in and some more on the way. Farr wanted to know how we can build into the budget these expenses for future flooding if we are doing a 20-year study - are there upgrades we could make. Hill suggested we could create a list of things we need to complete in order to flood-proof the pump station and sewer line. Cote added that check valves have been replaced and the pump station should be at 100% going forward and there will be spares on the shelf that can be used if things fail. He is working on ways to waterproof the manhole. He wants to make what the Town has operational even during a flood.

Update on status of repair of sewer line under Bridge St. bridge

Timestamp: 0:14

People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Arneson, Cote

Arneson stated that the repair may cost around \$55,000-\$60,000. Cote stated that scaffolding is the expensive issue, to erect the scaffolding that makes it safe to workers is the largest part of the cost. The insulation on the pipe is torn and the hangers are damaged. Arneson showed pictures of the damaged sewer line hangers under the bridge.

Discussion of policy regarding the number of water meters for a building

Timestamp: 0:17

https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2024/09/4c1_Water-Wastewater-Policy-regarding-future-projects_signed.pdf

https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2024/09/4c2_Delinquent_Account_Policy_UPDATED_1-21-20_signed.pdf

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

Arneson showed an existing account policy which states: "one owner structure should have one water account and one wastewater account. Lateral internal plumbing can be split for individual water meters in each unit. However, all meters must be billed to the

96 structure owner.” Hill questioned, what if three out of four tenants pay their bill, this
97 implies you’re going to bill for all four tenants? Cote explained then we're left with the
98 problem that we can't shut the delinquent tenant off at the curb stop, because three of
99 those are still operable, and the fourth is the one that we can't shut off.
100 Farr wondered how many accounts typically go delinquent. And Cote stated he has
101 experienced as many as 12 accounts being delinquent in a quarter, but it’s on average 5-7
102 per quarter. People have many ways to pay a bill that is delinquent and many chances to
103 become current with their bill before the water is actually shut off. Hill suggested that
104 every structure should have one master water meter and one wastewater meter, and then
105 second, third, fourth meters, etc. can be added by the owner after the fact.
106 Cote continued that we have located one service in Town where at some point the meter
107 was moved so that they're not paying for all their water. It is a commercial building, and
108 I've contacted him. He's supposed to meet me with his plumber this week to move the
109 meter. I informed him that it cannot continue. It's obvious that the plumbing was changed
110 a long time ago. Farr suggested that Town water meter readings will trump owner’s
111 meters that are installed beyond any Town meter.

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113 **Review of August water data**

114 Timestamp: 0:43

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116 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2024/0](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2024/09/4d_Monthly_Water_Report_August_2024.pdf)
117 [9/4d_Monthly_Water_Report_August_2024.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2024/09/4d_Monthly_Water_Report_August_2024.pdf)

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

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121 Arneson explained that there is an extra column for Endyne results in the Water Data
122 table. Cote mentioned that Endyne uses a different method to do water analysis, closer
123 aligned with the State’s method of measuring fluoride levels.

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

127 Timestamp: 0:45

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129 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Cote,

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131 Robert Connelly starts on Sept. 23. He is retired Navy. Proficient in welding. Has his
132 own machine shop. Cote is very excited and thinks he will be a good addition.

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134 **Update on removal of fallen and dead trees at the wastewater pumpstation**

135 Timestamp: 0:46

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

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139 Arneson described that Acer’s quote was the lowest, at \$5900, but they do not include
140 stump removal. Gary Bressor is splitting the cost with the Town since some of the trees
141 are on his property.

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144 **Superintendent’s Report**

145 Timestamp: 0:47

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147 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Cote

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149 Cote reported that last week the incline conveyor on the dewatering press broke again,
150 the same shaft that's been breaking. They pulled the whole screw out and found it to be
151 two inches out of square. It's been retooled and put back in and is much quieter and less
152 out of true. He hopes this means it will stop breaking.

153 He continued, that all four check valves have been replaced, they all are the same check
154 valve now. One of the old ones had a date stamp on it that said 1977.

155 They are still draining solids out of the aeration tank. P&P gave him a quote of \$20,000,
156 which he thinks is too much. In the tank now there are in fact tomato plants growing.

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159 **Update on inspection of cracks in water tank**

160 Timestamp: 0:52

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162 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson

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164 Arneson shared there was an engineer that our attorneys had identified that would be
165 willing to do this work. He worked on a scope of work with them and once it's signed, he
166 says they will be able to move forward with the work.

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169 **Discuss Items for Next Agenda:**

170 Water meters

171 Repair, sewer line

172 Review of flood recovery expenses

173 Superintendents report

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175 Cote will be out of Town from Sept 25th to the 4th of Oct for his son's wedding in Oregon

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177 **Adjournment**

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179 *Farr moved to adjourn. Miller seconded.*

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

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182 **Meeting adjourned at: 6:54 pm**

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185 **Chat file from Zoom:** None

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