

1 **Town of Richmond**
2 **Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission**
3 **Minutes of November 18, 2024**
4

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

7 **Members Absent:** None
8

9 **Staff Present:** Superintendent Steve Cote; Town Manager Josh Arneson; Assistant to the
10 Town Manager Duncan Wardwell; Town Clerk Linda Parent; Admin Assistant Linn
11 Caroleo.
12

13 **Others Present:** The meeting was recorded for MMCTV Erin Wagg.
14

15 **MMCTV Video:** MMCTV Erin Wagg
16 <https://youtu.be/EUbACg2Tc-E?si=xIVvDx5qXM9zNrtp>
17

18 **Call to Order: 6:00 pm**
19

20 **Welcome:** Farr
21

22 **Public Comment:** None
23

24 **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:** None
25

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

27 Timestamp: 0:00
28

29 **Minutes:**
30

31 People who participated in discussion: Farr
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33 *Furr moved to approve the Minutes as written on 11/04/2024. Miller seconded.*

34 *Roll Call Vote: Wolaver & Hill abstain; Furr, Miller, Farr in favor. Motion approved.*
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36 **Purchase Orders:**
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38 *Furr moved to approve Purchase Order number 4753 to All Seasons Excavating for*
39 *repair of the forced main sewer line under the Bridge St. bridge in an amount of \$82,000.*
40 *Hill seconded.*

41 *Roll Call Vote: Wolaver, Hill, Furr, Miller, Farr in favor. Motion approved.*
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43 People who participated in discussion: Farr, Cote, Furr, Miller
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45 Cote commented that this bill was larger than after the July 2023 flood, but he was
46 satisfied that the work was completed, albeit a bit less cosmetic than he would have liked.

47 Furr commented that he mentioned to a friend in California about the damage to the
48 sewer line under the bridge and that person suggested installing a baffle upstream from it

49 [the bridge] that would stop a tree from coming past it. Miller wondered where the baffle
50 would be installed. Cote stated that the water line is installed tight up under the bridge
51 and has not been damaged in any of the floods, he would like to have the sewer line
52 installed likewise.

53

54 **Warrants:**

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56 *Furr moved to approve the Warrants as presented. Miller seconded.*

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

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

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61 **Consideration of approval of a policy, and the amendment of a current policy,
62 which would limit each structure to only one Town water meter**

63 Timestamp: 0:08

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65 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2024/1/4a1_Policy_Controlling_The_Number_Of_Water_Meters_Per_Structure_FINAL_DRA
66 FT_11-15-24.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2024/1/4a1_Policy_Controlling_The_Number_Of_Water_Meters_Per_Structure_FINAL_DRAFT_11-15-24.pdf)

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68
69 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2024/1/4a2_Public_Private_System_Policy_v2_DRAFT_11-15-24.pdf

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71

72
73 People who participated in discussion: Farr, Arneson, Cote, Wolaver, Hill

74

75 Arneson stated that some extra language was added after Gary Bressor's question about a
76 new construction that has two (or more) owners needs to have more than one meter.

77 Wolaver pointed out that a duplex may have different laws governing them, as opposite
78 to a Townhome or condo. Arneson reminded people that this policy would be for houses
79 that get built moving forward. Farr wondered what happens if there is commercial
80 property that also has residential properties in it. Cote stated that one curb stop and one
81 meter is firm, but if someone is building a new construction they should be warned if
82 they intend to sell off one-half of a duplex, they should install two curbstops. He feels
83 Planning and Zoning should be notified and invited to a future Water and Sewer meeting
84 before the policy is approved. This still needs more discussion.

85

86 **Discussion of water service line letters to customers**

87 Timestamp: 0:25

88

89 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2024/1/4b1_Water_Service_Line_Letter_-_Unknown_Material.pdf

90

91
92 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2024/1/4b2_Water_Service_Line_Letter_-_Galvanized.pdf

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

97

98 Cote stated from the service line inventory that was done there are 165 service lines,
99 which are made of unknown material, because there were no records kept. A service line
100 starts at the water main and goes to the curb stop, then there is a curbstop line that goes
101 from there to the house, that whole thing is called a service line. We don't have
102 documentation from the engineers that did the study for us stating that there are still not
103 some lines that may have a lead pigtail, from the main to the curbstop. 95% of the service
104 lines in Richmond are copper from the curb stop to the house, I am relatively sure that
105 they went all the way to the main water line with copper at the time of installation. But
106 because it does not say that in the documents, we don't know for sure. This is the reason
107 for this letter going out to the 165 people stating there is the possibility that it could be a
108 lead service line. Hill queried if Cote could remind everyone of when the first service
109 lines were installed in Richmond, when the first water line came down off the reservoir,
110 up the hill. To which Cote responded, "the Tilden line," when that was he isn't sure. All
111 the lines on Tilden Ave have been upgraded. Cote continued that the EPA has informed
112 him that houses that were upgraded to galvanized service lines are as bad off as residents
113 who have lead pipe, and those people's letters are a bit different. Railroad St and across
114 from Stone Corral have galvanized pipes. Presently the EPA does not have a program to
115 get financial help with these projects. Cote hopes that after they do the Tilden Ave,
116 Cochran Rd and Huntington Rd projects, that about 80% of those 165 will go away. Hill
117 mentioned that a statement about pig tails being inspected and replaced as needed should
118 be added to the letters. Cote is weary of using the word "lead pipes" because people
119 could react to that. Hill added that you have to assume in old houses in Vermont that
120 there is lead, until proven otherwise.

121

122 **Update on installation of water meters**

123 Timestamp: 0:40

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125 People who participated in discussion: Farr, Arneson, Cote

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127 Cote said he is progressing and they are installing around 4-5 meters daily. They have
128 completed over 150 installed presently.

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130

131 **Superintendent's Report**

132 Timestamp: 0:41

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134 People who participated in discussion: Farr, Cote, Wolaver

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136 Cote reported the programmable logic controller (PLC), from the septic receiving unit
137 has been an issue. We have to manually run the machine when a septic truck is there, so
138 somebody literally has to be there all day waiting for a septic truck. Dan Pratt said he
139 would be done with it in about 10 days and be ready to install it, he had to rebuild the
140 program from scratch. Once installed we'll have to run it to verify that it's working and
141 hopefully that will rectify the issues.

142 Cote had a meeting with Hoyle Tanner, and a decision was made to not put the job out
143 for bid to do the installation. We're going to manage the demolition and installation of the
144 new one ourselves. We feel confident we will be able to do it. The influent pumps that
145 Tanner had chosen, Cote has a big question about: The brand is Flight based in Sweden.
146 We have waited up to 10 weeks for parts and pieces or replacements from them, because

147 they come from Sweden. I have a big issue having to wait 10 weeks for parts and pieces
148 for a pump that is as important as an influent pump, even the electric motors are
149 proprietary to Flight. Hill said it seems strange that they don't have an office or rep in the
150 country that has an inventory of parts. Cote answered that they do have a rep in the
151 country, he is out of Massachusetts, but they do not keep parts and pieces in-house. Hill
152 continued that the next hurdle may be tariffs under the next administration. Cote agreed
153 and has asked Tanner for three other options.

154 The clarifier is not done. Cote was hoping to have it put back together last week. We
155 have to epoxy in some bolts; we've got the right design, epoxy, and stuff for the project
156 but we need time to go down in there and complete it.

157 The aeration tank is all clean, and it's getting ready to get filled back up for winter.
158 Before we fill it up fully for winter, we're going to fill it up over the aerators, and we're
159 going to see how many of the aerators are not working. We'll get some parts over the
160 winter, so when we drain it down next spring, before we switch, we will replace all the
161 aerators and any other parts that need replacing.

162 Cote continued, we're still monitoring our TKN, which is ammonia, the nitrogen that we
163 discharge into the Winooski has been a little high. There is no set limit by the State for
164 this, but we are high. We're only required to monitor it every quarter, so we've now gone
165 to twice a month monitoring, and we're checking to see what problems might have
166 occurred with the alkalinity in the aeration tank.

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168 **Discuss Items for Next Agenda:**

169 Nitrogen levels

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171 **Adjournment**

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173 *Hill moved to adjourn. Furr seconded.*

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

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176 **Meeting adjourned at: 6:56 pm**

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178 **Chat file from Zoom:** None

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