

1 **Town of Richmond**
2 **Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission**
3 **Minutes of January 6, 2025**
4

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

6
7 **Members Absent:** None

8
9 **Staff Present:** Superintendent Steve Cote; Town Manager Josh Arneson; Assistant to the
10 Town Manager Duncan Wardwell; Admin Assistant Linn Caroleo.

11
12 **Others Present:** The meeting was recorded for MMCTV Erin Wagg, Sander, Wood.

13
14 **MMCTV Video:** MMCTV Erin Wagg
15 <https://youtu.be/dFG2rgqPjYI?si=Tr4ZXXaAGuWxMvjy>

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

18
19 **Welcome:** Wolaver

20
21 **Public Comment:** None

22
23 **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:**

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25 Hill mentioned he has a comment on the Town Report for Water and Sewer, which
26 Arneson said he could add to the Agenda.

27
28
29 **Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders**

30 Timestamp: 0:01

31
32 **Minutes:**

33
34 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver

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36 *Furr moved to approve the Minutes as written on 12/16/2024. Hill seconded.*

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

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39 **Purchase Orders:** None

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41 **Warrants:**

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43 *Hill moved to approve the Warrants as presented. Farr seconded.*

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

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47 **Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present**
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49 Hill made a comment that he feels it's unclear from reading the Town Report that Water
50 and Sewer is under the Water and Sewer Commission not under the jurisdiction of the
51 Selectboard, similarly that the Library is under the trustees for the Library. He wishes it
52 to be clearer that the Water and Sewer Commission is in charge and not the Selectboard.
53 He is specifically talking about page 60 in the report.

54

55 **Consideration of amendments to the "Policy For Providing Water And Wastewater**
56 **Service To Future Public Or Private Land Development Projects Or Properties**

57 Timestamp: 0:05

58

59 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2025/0](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2025/01/4a_Public_Private_System_Policy_v2_DRAFT_1-6-25.pdf)
60 [1/4a_Public_Private_System_Policy_v2_DRAFT_1-6-25.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2025/01/4a_Public_Private_System_Policy_v2_DRAFT_1-6-25.pdf)

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62

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

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65 Arneson reported that he reached out to Planning and Zoning regarding the word minor in
66 Section 3 under Water meters, connections of the policy. Osborne suggested using the
67 word "pertinent" rather than minor, to make it clear that "the secondary structure is
68 something that belongs to or goes with" the main structure and is less important. Furr
69 concurred that the wording makes it clearer that the secondary structure is not another
70 residence. Cote said this makes it clear that it's more cost beneficial to owner, developer
71 or builders to put in another curb stop and meter at the start of construction. Hill
72 wondered about ADUs. Miller asked if an ADU had to be attached, to which everyone
73 replied that an ADU does not have to be attached any longer.

74

75 *Furr moved to approve the amendments to the "Policy For Providing Water And*
76 *Wastewater Service To Future Public Or Private Land Development Projects Or*
77 *Properties." Miller seconded.*

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

79

80 **Discussion of the addition of fluoride to the drinking water**

81 Timestamp: 0:14

82

83 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2025/0](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2025/01/4b_Fluoride_References.pdf)
84 [1/4b_Fluoride_References.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2025/01/4b_Fluoride_References.pdf)

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

88

89 Wolaver stated this is an initial discussion. Arneson explained that we are part of the
90 Vermont Department of Health where we add 0.4 up to 0.7 to our drinking water. He
91 warned that if it were voted to take Richmond out of the program, dentists and in
92 particular pediatric dentists would need to prescribe fluoride. Farr said that her
93 experience with her children when fluoride was not being added to the water was a
94 plethora of cavities. She reiterated how important it is to notify people if the fluoride
95 supplementation goes away. Cote explained that the only supplier for fluoride systems is
96 in China, and it's uncertain how much the tariffs will increase with the new
97 administration. He ordered an extra bag in December, and it had already increased in

98 price to \$400 per bag, \$100 more than previously. Hill suggested that this be put out for a
99 vote at the annual Town Meeting. He continued that evidence has shown that overdosing
100 fluoride in older people is not helpful. Arneson wondered how many bags Cote used last
101 year, which he replied 6, 5 he bought, and one was given to him by the State. Wolaver
102 wondered about bringing in experts or representatives from the State to talk about the
103 pros and cons of fluoride supplementation. Farr wondered if the schools' water should be
104 supplemented. Cote expanded upon other districts and said that the Champlain Water
105 District has hired two chemists to keep their water chemistry an exact straight line and
106 fluoride at exactly 0.7. Cote continued that the biggest benefactors are the kids who
107 attend Richmond schools who get fluoride through the water at school.

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109

110 **Discussion of feedback regarding progress on Water and Sewer action items in the**
111 **Town Plan**

112 Timestamp: 0:29

113

114 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2025/0](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2025/01/4c_Town_Plan_Implementation_PAC_input_1_1_-_WS_12-23-24.pdf)
115 [1/4c_Town_Plan_Implementation_PAC_input_1_1_-_WS_12-23-24.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2025/01/4c_Town_Plan_Implementation_PAC_input_1_1_-_WS_12-23-24.pdf)

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

119

120 Arneson is asking for feedback from committees on what has been completed or not
121 regarding the New Town Plan which is being updated for 2026. Wolaver wanted
122 clarification about the term "partial review of storm water connections," which Cote
123 answered that most people in Town don't have sub pumps connected to their wastewater.
124 But he added that when it rains the volume at the plant increases and that could be
125 infiltration. He continued that the Dwyer's septic is connected to a line that dumps into
126 the system in the vault where the water comes across from the pump station, it is
127 recommended that when the house changes ownership to say to the new owners that their
128 sewer line must be rerouted to Bridge St. Cote would like to have that pipe blocked off.

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131 **Superintendent's Report**

132 Timestamp: 0:41

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134 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Cote

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136 Cote would like to have a water audit done once the new water meters are installed.

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138 January will be a big month for water meter installation, they replaced 5 meters just
139 today. 20 are scheduled for this week and 15 more for next week. Some residents who
140 have meters in crawl spaces will have to wait until Spring. They found a customer who
141 started using 200 gallons per hour every hour starting on November 16, so they called the
142 owner who traced the meter to one of his rental apartments and the very next day the
143 water usage was back to normal. Cote says they never would have caught such over
144 usage had it not been for the new meter system.

145 Cote continued that the plant is doing really well and no big repairs have been done
146 during the holidays. Once more water meters have been installed, he wants to start

147 working on the curb stops in Town. He estimates that about 70% of the curb stops are
148 easily accessible and in working order, but others have been plowed over, sheared off or
149 are broken or filled up, which is what he aims to rectify.

150 Furr asked about the 20-year study, which Cote replied is almost wrapped up. Cote is
151 eager to try and cut some expenses that are non-essential in his mind. He particularly
152 mentioned the \$400 screen he installed that protects the influent pump that needs to be
153 cleaned daily, but he feels is essential, saves money and protects the pumps.

154

155 **Review of December 2024 water data**

156 Timestamp: 0:51

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158 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2025/0](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2025/01/4e_Monthly_Water_Report_December_2024.pdf)
159 [1/4e_Monthly_Water_Report_December_2024.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2025/01/4e_Monthly_Water_Report_December_2024.pdf)

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161

162 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver, Cote

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164 Cote described that the report this time is displaying actual numbers without rounding.
165 He shows that the fluoride numbers were 0.8575 last month and thus the fluoride pump
166 has been turned down a bit. He continued that they recently took the Chlorine pump apart
167 and cleaned it, which has helped bring the numbers for Chlorine down, but they are still
168 tweaking that a bit.

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171 **Discuss Items for Next Agenda:**

172 Farr stated she wanted to hear about the tank, to which Arneson replied that he has the
173 engineers report which he forwarded to our attorneys, so there is some movement on this.
174 She thinks they should talk more about fluoride

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177 **Adjournment**

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179 *Farr moved to adjourn. Miller seconded.*

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

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183 **Meeting adjourned at: 6:57 pm**

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185 **Chat file from Zoom:** None

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