

1 **Town of Richmond**  
2 **Special Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission**  
3 **Minutes of March 3, 2025**

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

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7 **Members Absent:** None

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9 **Staff Present:** Superintendent Steve Cote; Town Manager Josh Arneson, Assistant to the  
10 Town Manager Duncan Wardwell, Finance Director Connie Bona.

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

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14 **MMCTV Video:** MMCTV Erin Wagg  
15 <https://youtu.be/UjfbWZIINnk?si=coVm7wnUnhsaqOMX>

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

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19 **Welcome:** Wolaver

20  
21 **Public Comment:** Furr wanted to remind people we could have a flooding situation this  
22 week with temperatures reaching 50F.

23  
24 **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:** None

25  
26 **Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders**  
27 Timestamp: 0:01

28  
29 **Minutes:**

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31 People who participated in discussion: Wolaver

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33 *Hill moved to approve the Minutes as written on 02/17/2024. Miller seconded.*  
34 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Miller, Farr, Furr, Wolaver in favor. Motion approved.*

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36 **Purchase Orders:** None

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38 **Warrants:**

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

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43  
44 **Reminder of Special Water and Sewer Meeting on Monday, March 10, 2025**  
45 Timestamp: 0:03

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

49 Arneson mentioned that the Auditors will be present at this meeting. The meeting will  
50 start at 6 p.m. and is expected to last 2 hours. Hill said that if we know how much we've  
51 spent and what we want, we need a clearer explanation of how much money we have  
52 presently. Furr suggested using AI to put together a report for the Town. Farr wants more  
53 explanation about taxes and how we do the budget in more specific terms. Arneson  
54 agreed that using AI to put together a report could be useful.

55  
56

57 **Consideration of recommending that the Selectboard approve submitting the Clean**  
58 **Water State Revolving Fund loan application for planning for flood resiliency of the**  
59 **wastewater pump station and force main**

60 Timestamp: 0:13

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62 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water\\_Sewer\\_Commission/Meetings/2025/0](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2025/02/4b_Draft_CWSRF_Funding_Application_-_Bridge_Street_PS_Step_I_Feb_25_2025_FINAL_DRAFT.pdf)  
63 [2/4b\\_Draft\\_CWSRF\\_Funding\\_Application\\_-](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2025/02/4b_Draft_CWSRF_Funding_Application_-_Bridge_Street_PS_Step_I_Feb_25_2025_FINAL_DRAFT.pdf)  
64 [\\_Bridge\\_Street\\_PS\\_Step\\_I\\_Feb\\_25\\_2025\\_FINAL\\_DRAFT.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Water_Sewer_Commission/Meetings/2025/02/4b_Draft_CWSRF_Funding_Application_-_Bridge_Street_PS_Step_I_Feb_25_2025_FINAL_DRAFT.pdf)

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66

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

68

69 Cote said this is a loan for the engineers to get started on a design. He described that a  
70 new pump station should be moved closer to the Round Church, up the hill from where it  
71 is now. Farr asked how close does it have to be to the current pump station. Cote said the  
72 sewer line runs right down the middle of Bridge Street. The engineers want the pump  
73 station up from where it currently is located. Hill wants to know what the easements are  
74 on the property around or near the Round Church. Furr wants more information about  
75 where it would go and what it would look like. Arneson said a decision does not have to  
76 be made now, this is only for the loan to get the engineers going.

77

78

79 *Furr moved to recommend to the Selectboard that they approve the submittal of the*  
80 *Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan application for planning for flood resiliency of*  
81 *the Wastewater pump station and force main. Farr seconded.*

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

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85 **Discussion of Water Resources Department Logo public outreach**

86 Timestamp: 22:00

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

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90 Cote intended to make a sandwich board with both logos and bring it to the Town  
91 meeting, but he didn't get that far. Hill thinks the average voter is not a Water and Sewer  
92 customer. Farr wondered if Cote already has a company to print shirts. Cote wants to get  
93 hats, so everyone is wearing the same hat. Arneson cautioned about doing this as a  
94 rebranding that may cost a lot of money. Furr said there may be people who want to buy  
95 shirts. Cote said he has money in his budget for uniforms. He will put together a  
96 sandwich board for the annual meeting.

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98

99 **Update on installation of water meters**

100 Timestamp: 0:32

101

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

103

104 Cote said there are 18 addresses where he cannot get ahold of people at those addresses to  
105 schedule installation of new water meters. He says the system is working great, he has the  
106 system flag anyone using more than 500 gallons per day. Leaky toilets are the most  
107 common culprit for elevated water consumption. Tax day, April 15, is his goal for having  
108 close to all meters installed. He said the meters are allowing him to monitor daily water  
109 usage. Farr suggested there be a demo at the annual meeting of the software for people to  
110 keep track of their own water use.

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112

113 **Superintendents Report**

114 Timestamp: 0:45

115

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

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118 Cote explained that the plant is running great. He mentioned that he was notified by  
119 Casella that by 1 July, 2025 the biosolids at the Wastewater plant must be tested for  
120 PFAS. If the biosolids test higher than NY, which is where the biosolids go, then he has  
121 to find a new alternative. He received the test kit today and will run a test next time he is  
122 pressing. Arneson asked whether it would be the grasslands or landfill if the biosolids test  
123 too high. Cote replied that PFAS numbers usually go up if he is taking in a lot of septage.  
124 PFAS doesn't go away or dissolve and has to be sent to a place that processes it. Farr said  
125 PFAS is this generation's asbestos.

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127

128 **Discuss Items for Next Agenda:**

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130 Water numbers

131 Budget

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134 **Adjournment**

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136 *Farr moved to adjourn. Miller seconded.*

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

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

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142 **Chat file from Zoom:** None

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