

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN OF RICHLAND WATER ADVISORY
BOARD**

**TOWN OF RICHLAND
1 BRIDGE STREETPULASKI, NY 13142**

Date: August 6, 2019

Kind of Meeting: Regular water board meeting

Place: H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse

Water Board Members Present: Craig Sternberg, Chairman

Laurie Barber

Gerry Licourt

Ron Novak

Doug Schwalm

Absent: John Fox, Hwy Superintendent

Others in Attendance: Mary Yerdon, Water Board Clerk

Richard Denny

Bethany Joss

CALL TO ORDER: Tonight's meeting was called to order at 6:00pm with Craig Sternberg leading the pledge of allegiance.

Gerry Licourt made a motion to accept the minutes from the July 2, 2019 meeting. Ron Novak seconded the motion. All were in favor.

In July 2019, 3,839,000 gallons of water was pumped from the Fernwood wells and 10,203,400 was pumped from the Schoeller wells. This amount is consistent with 2018 for the same time period.

Supervisor Krupke would like to know the progress on washing the water towers. Superintendent Fox was not present to give the report. Craig Sternberg will check and get back to Mr. Krupke.

Gerry Licourt made a motion to address the charges for a property on Phillips Dr. destroyed by fire. The EDU will remain at 1 because there is a curb stop. However, the minimum bill will be discontinued until water is reconnected. The owner will need to purchase a new meter when/if he reconnects if that was also destroyed in the fire. Laurie Barber seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Barton & Loguidice update is as follows:

Water Project Update:

- Activity Completed in Last Month and Current Activities
 - Final design is near completion. Plans for Town review will be forthcoming.
 - CSX Railroad Crossing Applications submitted. All 3 applications have been approved and paid for by Sandy Creek.
 - DEC & Army Corps permit application has been submitted. DEC has raised a concern with the proposed water main on North Rainbow Shores Road/ South Sandy Pond Inlet. B&L is working on a response to this. This may cause a delay to the project.
 - NYS DOT approval has been received.
 - Work continues on project easements – heavily concentrated along private roads in Sandy Creek.

- Project Financing
 - NYS EFC Short Term Interest Free Loan scheduled to close in June or July (construction funds).
 - USDA RD has offered a \$2.5 million grant and 38-year 2.375% interest loan
 - EFC and RD confirmed that the Town can close on RD funding and refinance into DWSRF 30-year 0% interest loan!!!
 - Sandy Creek will hire Fiscal Advisors for to help for the remainder of the project due to additional complexity with RD involvement.

- Steps to Proceed
 - Obtain easements
 - Final Design completion
 - Regulatory Review / Permitting – through Fall 2019
 - Bidding – Fall 2019
 - TARGET Construction Start – Fall 2019

There was discussion regarding the EDU charge for a Church in Richland. Churches are charged ½ EDU. However, if there is a parsonage on the same parcel, it is considered a dwelling and an additional charge of 1 EDU is assessed. A hardship case can be brought to the waterboard for consideration. Mary Yerdon will check with a church representative to see what the parsonage is used for (ie: rental property, does the Minister live there—what is the use?).

Property owner, Richard Denny, attended the meeting and had several questions regarding the way EDU's are assigned to properties. It was explained there is a schedule used to determine EDU's assigned to a property based on its classification regardless of whether the owner chooses to hook up to municipal water or not. The assessor information is used to determine what is on the property in question. Mr.

Denny also wanted to know why water customers are charged an EDU for water before having it available. Mr. Denny was informed that the town has incurred over \$1,000,000 in expenses involved with forming the new water district and those expenses must be paid. According to law, only funds collected from a water district are legally permitted to be used to pay for expenses in that particular water district -you are not allowed to use funds from another water district or town taxpayer funds to pay for expenses in a different district.

Mr. Denny also questioned a property on S. Herrick Drive. After reviewing the map, he was satisfied with the treatment on that property.

Another property owner was inquiring as to why his EDU charge was raised. It is based on the schedule of charges. His property classification is 5 apartments and he questioned why efficiency apartments were not treated differently than a larger apartment. He also stated in a letter, the efficiencies were used more like a motel unit rather than an apartment. Mary Yerdon was assigned to inform him if he wanted to have the EDU charge reduced, the property must be reclassified by the County or the Assessor to be a Motel if he feels the property is a motel. Again, EDU's are assigned based on the information the water department receives from the assessor.

At 7:40 pm Laurie Barber made a motion to close the meeting. Gerry Licourt seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The September meeting has been cancelled. A special meeting could be called if necessary. The next scheduled water board meeting will be held Tuesday October 1, 2019 at 6pm in the H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse Jury Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Yerdon
Water Clerk