

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

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

**Date:** October 1, 2019

**Kind of Meeting:** Regular monthly water board meeting

**Place:** H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse

**Water Board Members Present:** Craig Sternberg, Chairman

Gerry Licourt

Ron Novak

Doug Schwalm

**Absent:** John Fox, Hwy Superintendent

**Others in Attendance:** Mary Yerdon, Water Board Clerk

**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 August 6, 2019 meeting. Doug Schwalm seconded the motion. All were in favor.

In September 2019, 3,158,000 gallons of water was pumped from the Fernwood wells and 9,459,400 was pumped from the Schoeller wells. This amount is consistent with last year at this time.

A property recently split a parcel into two properties. The original parcel had water hooked into our system. Before it split, the property had water to a small building and to the house. The problem is when it split, the small building receiving water is now on a separate parcel from the house. The meter pit is on the parcel with just the small building on it. It is illegal to service two parcels with just one service. Each parcel requires its own meter and service line. The operators as well as Craig Sternberg stopped to verify exactly how it is installed. Dustin Clark, B&L engineer, also sent a letter to the town recommending how to correct the issue. A letter will be sent both property owners informing them of the correction that is required. The town will try to make it the least expensive way for the taxpayer to proceed. The old line must be severed in such a way that it cannot be reconnected.

At a September 17, 2019 joint meeting between Town of Sandy Creek and the Town of Richland Barton & Loguidice Engineer, Dustin Clark reported the progress on Water District #5. Mr. Clark reported the Railroad permits have been approved and are paid for, DOT has given conditional approval, Army Corps of Engineer has approved the

project, plans and specifications have been submitted to the DOH and USDA Rural Development. The DEC permits were sent in April. A response came back from them in June. B & L met with them in July to go over the problem areas. The problem area appears to be along a coastal road in what the DEC determines to be a hazardous coastal area where the dunes need to be protected. They are concerned with erosion due to the high levels of Lake Ontario water. According to Mr. Clark, the DEC does not want to promote development along this two-mile stretch. There are currently approximately 45 developed properties and 2 properties that have no house on them. The target date to begin construction was by the end of 2019—because of the permit required, it may be 2020 with possible DEC approval in 2019. The project cannot move forward and start the installations until all permits are granted—it is called segmenting which is not allowed for permits or funding. The charges placed on property taxes was implemented based on what B&L expected the target construction date would be. Mr. Clark, various Sandy Creek board members and the Sandy Creek Town Clerk went on to explain the expenses incurred so far for this project have been over \$1,000,000. Money had to be borrowed and then Bond Anticipation notes had to be taken out to pay for these expenses. There were district formation costs, engineering costs, lawyers' fees, borings had to be done, property easements obtained, permits obtained etc. and all completed and paid for before any lines can be placed in the ground. Currently the only obstacle is the DEC permit. Mr. Clark was quick to explain the DEC workers are just trying to do their job and protect the dunes and he feels confident that this will be resolved. An answer could come any day or a couple of months. It's in the DEC hands. In the meantime, taxpayers are not happy to be paying for the water and installation has not started. Mr. Clark said this is a 30-year loan and the money collected can only be used in this water district—it cannot be used elsewhere in the town budget. Tax money collected goes toward that loan and eventually toward Operation and Maintenance in the water district. The first Bond Anticipation payment is due in June 2020 and the next payment is due in 2021. Once the project is completed the loans will come from the EFC and Rural Development and we will have a 30-year Bond Note rather than Bond "Anticipation" loan. It's all very complicated but necessary. It was also brought up that escrow accounts are affected by the special assessment charges going up or down.

Mr. Clark was asked where the lines would be installed first and he said it's up to the contractor but usually at the water source. The next topic was how much tax to charge for 2020 water. Town Supervisor's will discuss this with their water board and their town board and make that decision.

Mr. Clark reported the project could take two winters to complete the entire project. You still must work around some of the protected species during various times of the year. If the permits come in quickly, construction bids could go out before the end of the year. It's better not to send out bids at the end of summer—they are usually more favorable if sent out in the winter or early spring.

After discussion, the Richland Water Board unanimously voted to recommend leaving the special assessment charge the same as last year.

Demographics report was given to water board. They prefer a report showing how many of the people not hooked into the system have homes on the property.

The question came up of flushing lines when the new district starts putting in water main. They would like a log of how much water is used flushing the new lines. This would be reported to New York State on the annual water withdrawal report. Perhaps the project or the contractor should pay Richland for water used. This should be discussed at the pre-job meeting

There was discussion on the charge to install a new tap. Currently, the charge is \$500.00. The parts alone are approximately \$250.00. When the highway department does the dig, it is back charged to the water department. They would like to further discuss the cost of a new tap and possibly raise the cost for a tap.

There could possibly be assistance for low income individuals through Social Services to help with water installation costs. Mary Yerdon will call the County to find out if anything is available.

At 7:10 the Gerry Licourt made a motion to close the meeting. It was seconded by Doug Schwalm. All were in favor.

The next meeting is November 4, 2019 in the H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse jury room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Yerdon  
Town of Richland Water Department Clerk