

# TOWN OF RICHLAND WATER DEPARTMENT

1 BRIDGE STREET PULASKI, NY 13142

## MINUTES OF THE RICHLAND WATER ADVISORY BOARD

**Date:** March 3, 2021

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

**Place:** H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse

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

Doug Haynes

Doug Schwalm

Krista Fox

Rob Goodsell

Ron Novak

**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.

Doug Schwalm made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 2, 2021 meeting. Ron Novak seconded the motion. All were in favor.

There was no one at the meeting with public comments.

Supervisor Sternberg went over his monthly report as follows.

**Water Board**-Reports were distributed to all board members. We have a new board member, Rob Goodsell. The Fahnestock issue has been resolved.

**Water Quantities, Quality and Testing** – Normal usage. Testing has been good. The second round of PFA testing took place today. It is a NYS requirement at a cost of approximately \$2000.00 quarterly.

**Personnel** – Personnel is stable and very good with Monday Team and safety meetings. Covid protocol is strictly adhered to. Operators continue with confined space training. Parttime labor could possibly be added in the Spring with personnel from the Highway Department or general hire. The extra help may be needed due to the installation of replacement meters (approximately 1000) and hookups for water district 5. When the operators go into homes, they as well as the homeowner, must follow covid protocol. Appointments will be made if it is necessary to enter a home. Currently water operators are plowing the Haldane Center when time allows. Their plowing time is charged to the budget for the Haldane Center. There may be some changes this summer to mowing at the CWWF. Water personnel may be performing that task as time permits.

**Water Clerk**- Everything is stable and very good. Normal activities continue (work orders, alarm logs and daily logs}. New service applications are coming in.

**Work Orders and Alarms** -Normal activity continues-no alarms the final week of February.

**Maintenance** – The Fernwood roof has been replaced. Plowing by the operators continues at Haldane during normal work hours when practical. Doug Haynes noticed a lot of ice on the Fernwood building. Supervisor Sternberg said the electrical equipment in the building keeps it very warm inside and the new roof requires new insulation to be installed this summer.

**Expansion Project** (Water District #5)– Contractor now on winter break. Work will resume the end of March. Estimated completion fall 2021. Plans have been re-submitted for Sandy Pond Inlet. Plan was submitted for directional boring under tracks at Rt 28 after failed attempts at conventional boring.

**Progress**– Zenner system phase one infrastructure installation complete. Service reader installation to begin in March after meter reading schedule. There is beginning windmill decommissioning with some interest in possible sale.

**Materials/Equipment** – Material inventories and supplies are stable with stocking for installations. Cargo/tool trailer to be acquired before spring at a cost of \$6185.00. The trailer will be outfitted for installations and repairs. Safety equipment/tools will be purchased over next 90 days as the budget allows (approximately \$2500.00). Future budget considerations – signage and marker stock- +/- \$2000, new pick-up for senior operator Spring 2022 +/- \$45000- selling the old pick-up w/plow to Buildings and Grounds Dept., Fencing around 146 S Main St Richland. +/- \$13000, Camera systems required at all sites-cost to be determined.

The fencing referred to at 146 S. Main Street in Richland hamlet refers to property owners that have encroached onto Richland Water owned property. There are cars, trucks, burned vehicles, campers, and a swimming pool on town of Richland property. A survey was conducted by a licensed surveyor and a letter sent to the property owners to clean up the property and remove the items from Town of Richland property. They were given until April to finish it and they have been removing the items. The vehicles they burnt here did not have any effect on municipal water, but it would contaminate the soil. Once they finish the cleanup possibly a berm with trees planted rather than a fence could be a less expensive way to control the use of that land.

There was follow up discussion regarding cleaning out around fire hydrants. Doug Haynes again expressed concern about firemen being able to locate and clean it out when it is needed. Since we have around 1,000 hydrants, Rob Goodsell thought perhaps someone could check with the fire department to see if there are key areas where the hydrant should be kept cleaned out if the homeowner does not do it. At least make homeowners aware they are responsible to keep it cleaned out. Since fire hydrants are in the Town right of way, the highway department could/should be involved in the clean out process. Another issue with fire hydrants is when they are too low to the road due to an embankment. They may/may not be practical to use when down so low. Doug Schwalm said if you bring the dirt up too steeply to accommodate the hydrant, there could be pressure problems to/from the hydrant. Craig Sternberg will speak to the contractor again to see if anything can be done. However, once the drawings are approved the contractor is reluctant to change location of the hydrants.

Water rates and EDU definitions was handed out to water board members to review. The next meeting there will be discussion if there are any questions or issue with any of it.

Doug Haynes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30. Doug Schwalm seconded it. All members agreed. Next meeting is tentatively set for Tuesday, April 6 at 6 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Yerdon  
Town of Richland Water Department Clerk