

TOWN OF RICHLAND WATER DEPARTMENT

1 BRIDGE STREET PULASKI, NY 13142

MINUTES OF THE RICHLAND WATER ADVISORY BOARD

Date: December 6, 2022

Kind of Meeting: Regular monthly water board meeting

Place: H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse Jury Room

Water Board Members Present: Doug Schwalm, Acting Chairman

Ken Moonan

Krista Fox

Absent: Rob Goodsell

Others in Attendance:

Supervisor Ron Novak, Water Department Supervisor

Mary Yerdon, Water Department Clerk

CALL TO ORDER: Tonight's meeting was called to order at 6:00pm with Doug Schwalm leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Krista Fox made a motion to approve the October 4, 2022, water board minutes. It was seconded by Ken Moonan. All were in favor.

- Hydrants in WD 3 have all been greased, exercised, and made sure they were working properly. Water districts 1 and 2 will be next. There are a total of 705 hydrants. In the past there was no record or schedules for this type of routine maintenance, but there is now.
- The relevy for unpaid taxes placed on 2023 Oswego County property taxes was \$40,679.16. This makes it difficult to work within the budget when this money budgeted for 2022 isn't received until 2023. Supervisor Novak suggested we work with the town attorney once a predetermined threshold has been met (time vs. dollar) to possibly shut water off for non-payment rather than putting it on their property taxes. The water board felt a time frame should be considered before turning water off.
- When the December water pumped report comes in, we appear to have pumped 25,000,000 (plus) gallons more than last year.
- Both pumps in Fernwood are comprised and running at 63%. This places an increased strain on the Schoeller wells. Well #2 in Fernwood was inoperable for 8 months before Supervisor Novak took over. The Fernwood operating pumps are turned down to keep the wells operational (screens are plugged, pumps are deteriorating). Wells #27 and #13 at the Schoeller Wellsite are the only two wells hooked to a backup generator. Well #13 pumps 600 GPM which is adequate to cover both Richland and Sandy Creek if needed. Well #27 is currently shut down to maintain emergency operation capabilities.

ARPA money funds will be replacing the existing generator. The Orwell hookup fee (\$75,000) will be used for a second generator for wells #7 and #23.

- There are 10 projects being worked on currently costing approximately \$565,000. Six of these are ARPA projects worth about \$410,000. Supervisor Novak should be doing approximately 70% of the engineering services with the remaining 30% completed by an engineering firm. The Richland water system is currently valued at \$70,000,000 (replacement value).
- The annual sanitary survey conducted by the Oswego County Board of Health was completed last month. The County will mandate a system wide flushing program. There are new laws/mandates regarding lead and copper in public water systems. Our system was constructed post lead containing plumbing parts; therefore, we will not be subject to the lead portion. We will have new testing requirements for copper. The issue recently is loss of the chlortec system-the chemical injection pump failed. The one we were utilizing was discontinued and we couldn't get parts. Finally, we found one, but it will take 24-26 weeks to get it. We are currently running on two brand new chemical injection pumps.
- We are now required to have continuous chlorine residual monitors because we reached the threshold when water district 5 went online. The cost is \$16,098 to cover both well sites. Supervisor Novak had a conversation with Barton & Loguidice letting them know this should have been covered under the project costs. He expects it to be approved. The \$16,098 includes parts, installation and programming and will takes 4-6 weeks to get it.
- The solar panels at our Central Water Works Facility produce more than enough power for that facility. The excess power is now going to be applied to electric bills at the Schoeller wellsite. There is excess power 9 out of 12 months of the year.
- Operators have been very busy installing transmitters, flushing hydrants and maintenance on hydrants. 1103 customers receive water and 703 have the new Zenner transmitters. The signal is better since the three representatives from Zenner were here. We still need another antenna on the east side of the town.
- An informational meeting was held October 21, 2022, with Sandy Creek to explain the increase in their water charge. The information was presented by Town Supervisor, Kern Yerdon, Water Supervisor, Ron Novak, and Financial Consultant, Laird Petrie. Copies of the information presented were handed out. At the next Richland Town Board meeting some Sandy Creek Board members and Mike Kastler, Sandy Creek Highway Superintendent attended to ask if the water increase was going to stay the same at \$4.50/1000 and they were told "yes" it is.
- The same day as the October 21, 2022, meeting, the Central Water Works Building was vandalized. A lot of damage but nothing was missing. The damage was considered a felony criminal mischief charge based on the repair cost. The new window was ordered and received and is being installed by Kevin Balcom from the highway department. The town board has authorized installing new camera systems at all water locations.
- Master Meter readings were taken on Rainbow Shores Road, US 11, and CO RT 62. Richland users on Rainbow Shores Road and S. Rainbow Shores Road were read even though Sandy Creek doesn't get reimbursed until the June reading for that use. January 1, 2023, the Richland users on those roads will be read again. Then in June

2023 when the master meter is read and billed, Sandy Creek will be charged \$4.50/1000. Richland use will be reimbursed to Sandy Creek at \$2.00/1,000 from December 1, 2022, through January 1, 2023. January 1, 2023, through June 30, 2023 will be reimbursed to Sandy Creek at the \$3.80/1,000 rate.

- The December master meeting billing to Sandy Creek was-Rainbow Shores-\$40,654.24; US 11-\$3817.00; and CO RT 62 was \$11,365.40 (revised after the meeting to \$114.000). Brennen Beach was billed \$22,953.29 to be paid by December 31, 2022.
- A survey letter will be sent to all Richland residents not currently in a water district to determine if there is any interest in another water district. The results will be returned to Richland and then forwarded to Barton & Loguidice for tracking. Currently there is a lot of grant money available from New York State and Federal gov't for water projects. Townwide or smaller projects will be looked at once the survey results are returned.
- Thirty letters were mailed to property owners that meet the qualification to be included as extensions to existing districts. If there is interest, they could join a water district. It would be their choice.
- Water district #5 is now complete except for a few restorations.
- The charge for water shut off is currently \$25.00 during work hours and \$50.00 after work hours. We are legally responsible for all repairs up to the curb stop. Operators get 4 hours overtime for an after-hours callout. An after-hours call would cost the town about \$180.00 or more. After discussion, Doug Schwalm made a motion to recommend raising after-hours calls from \$50.00 to \$100. Ken Moonan seconded the motion-all were in favor.
- We currently have 1103 customers receiving municipal water. We have 764 property owners that could hook up but choose not to. Of the 764 that are not hooked up, vacant lots make up 440 parcels and 324 are businesses or residential properties.
- Recently, it was reported that we were paying for the internet at the wind turbine since February 2021 when it stopped working at a total cost of \$1420.00. There was also a phone bill at the Fernwood office for 14 years that was not being used at a cost of \$10,000. These problems have both been corrected.
- Operator Hicks truck just had a \$1,000 repair bill. The newer truck has no operational hazard lights. Estimates are being looked at to correct that.

At 8:20 Krista Fox made a motion to close the meeting. Ken Moonan seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The next water board meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2023, at 6pm at the H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse. The January 2023 meeting is cancelled.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Yerdon
Town of Richland Water Department Clerk