

TOWN OF RICHLAND WATER DEPARTMENT

1 BRIDGE STREET PULASKI, NY 13142

MINUTES OF THE RICHLAND WATER ADVISORY BOARD

Date: February 1, 2022

Kind of Meeting: Regular monthly water board meeting

Place: H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse Jury Room

Water Board Members Present:: Doug Haynes

Doug Schwalm

Krista Fox

Rob Goodsell

Donna Gilson, Chairwoman

Others in Attendance:

Kern Yerdon, Deputy Town Supervisor

Ron Novak, Water Department Supervisor

Dustin Clark, Barton & Loguidice Engineer

Anthony Young, Barton & Loguidice Engineer

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

Doug Haynes made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 4, 2022, meeting. Krista Fox seconded the motion with a minor correction. All were in favor.

8,244,800 gallons of water was pumped from the wells in January 2022. 7,707,600 gallons of water was pumped in January 2021.

Dustin Clark representing Barton & Loguidice discussed the potential extensions to Water District #5. He explained how extensions are much quicker (minimum of 6 months) with the cost dependent on how many people enter and how much construction is involved. The water clerk kept a list of individuals who expressed a desire for municipal water and were not included in Water District #5; it was turned over to Barton & Loguidice to give options to the Town on whether an extension would be in the best interest of the property owner and the Town. Possibly a new water district could be looked at as well as an extension since several property owners would like municipal water. He said some of the identified areas are at the end of a district and some are more costly due to location. Extensions make sense when you don't have to add more water mains, hydrants, valves, etc. An extension still requires a map plan and report showing boundary description and number of units in that extension, public hearings, legal fees, total cost to construct, etc. The property owners in that extension are responsible for those costs. Extensions don't qualify for special funding such as grants. When forming a new water district, the town goes after low interest funding, grants, etc. if they are available. If it is a joint project with another town (like the one Richland has with Sandy Creek), there is cost saving benefits associated with that. Forming a new district takes a much longer time to complete the formation process before construction can even begin. Only a handful of viable properties on the list could be able to be part of an extension. He suggested asking the people which way to go- extension vs. new district. He noted that we have the capability of pumping 1.6 million gallons of water per day which is 4 times more than we currently pump. He said there may be an opportunity in the Town of Albion for a new joint district.

Supervisor Ron Novak questioned Mr. Clark on how much money is left over from Water District #5. Mr. Clark said they still have to drill under the creek on County Route 62 and under the railroad tracks on County Route 28. There is about \$200,000 left. Supervisor Novak said a gravel road is needed at the

Schoeller wellsite from the main road to the new wellhead which is about ¼ mile of sandy field. It's very time consuming and rough on the pickup truck to plow that. It must be kept open to get to the controls. Mr. Clark said most places do not have gravel roads to their wells. This would be a decision of the town board. Supervisor Novak would also like to have a minimum of two 20' twelve-inch pipes and 4 collars for future repairs once this project is completed.

Orwell is interested in buying water from Richland. Their wells have a high level of nitrates and a history of issues with the source of their current water supply. The Board of Health has told them they have to fix this problem. Non-compliance with the DOH would make Orwell eligible for more grant money and possibly eligible for an income-based block grant. It is suggested Orwell could have a master meter at the end of Stowell drive and just pay for the water that goes through it. Orwell would put in the line from there to a connection within their system. This would not be a joint project.

Ellisburg is also starting to investigate municipal water for their town.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

- Transmitters: There is not available time to install these and still maintain the system. Maintenance has been let go to work on transmitters. It's not possible to do both. There are 401 transmitters installed out of the 1053 that need to be replaced.
- New tools: The town has approved \$10,000 of ARPA money for basic hand tools and eventually stocking the emergency response trailer. A small Honda generator has been ordered for work in the vaults and an ST 700 14" saw for cutting ductile. A 6500-watt generator could possibly be purchased to use in the trailer which would be capable of running lights, tools and pumps.
- Repair parts: 90% of the parts ordered (pipes, collars of various sizes) have been delivered and another \$534 in parts is needed. These are 6", 8" and 10" piping and connections.
- Heating system in main office building: the heating system in the building was inadequate. The new system is being installed today and finished tomorrow.
- Generator at Schoeller: In September 2021 there was a \$2500.00 repair. The generator is over 20 years old and there is some difficulty getting repair parts. Tomorrow the operators will be tearing it apart and putting in new cables, there is a valve cover leak, and the alternator is broken (it can only run until the battery runs out). We will see if the alternator can be rebuilt. This repair will be around \$500.00. The cost of a new one is about \$42,000 with the old one worth \$8000-\$11,000. This is a necessary component to our system. If it is not working and we have a situation where we need it, we would have to rent one until the situation is taken care of.
- The water salesman is now fixed and working. The fix for this was \$772.00.
- Some parts for hookup are not readily available. Parts (especially brass) could take until March 2022 to be available. We expect quotes from our supplier tomorrow for 24 complete hookups. Sandy Creek has offered to help us if we need any parts-they have extra.
- A new clortec tube assembly was stalled by our operators. That part was \$1600. One of our chemical feed pumps at Schoeller also needs some repair work or possibly replaced. That is being investigated.
- The Bishop Road Tower will need painted by 2024 at a cost of \$51,000.
- The water operator's truck is now completely fixed after the recall. It took 3 trips to Carthage. After the first trip it had to go back twice. The garage there came and picked it up and returned it the other two times.
- The Emergency Trailer will be placed in the water building as soon as our heating system is finished. As time permits, it will be shelved and stocked and ready for any work that needs completed.
- Fuel: We have changed fuel companies to run the furnace at the main office building on CO RT 41. The rate we were paying was \$2.79 and we now pay \$1.69 using the NYS bid. We now have a 50-gallon tank. We also have Glider filling the gas tank for the generator instead of filling it with 5-gallon cans. The highway department helped us remove a tree so the truck to fill the tank could get in. There will be some cleanup in the spring.

With all of this going on, Supervisor Novak feels the Town should consider hiring a third person to work in the water department.

Krista Fox said the boards should look ahead and have a plan to keep the entire system maintained and a plan to have a reserve fund for future repairs. She and Donna Gilson both discussed the value of a dollar today not buying as much 20 years from now as it does today. They felt that should be taken into consideration when putting a plan in place.

Doug Haynes questioned the protocol for appointing new board (water, planning, assessment review) members. It was explained to him that the Town Supervisor, according to law, has that task. Donna Gilson said usually the Supervisor will run that past the town board if time permits. Openings are advertised and applications turned into the Town Clerk. The Town Supervisor reviews them and makes an appointment.

At 8:10 Krista Fox made a motion to close the meeting. Rob Goodsell seconded it. All were in favor.

The next water board meeting will be held on March 1 at 6pm in the Jury Room of the H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Yerdon
Town of Richland Water Department Clerk