

TOWN OF RICHLAND WATER DEPARTMENT

1 BRIDGE STREET PULASKI, NY 13142

MINUTES OF THE RICHLAND WATER ADVISORY BOARD

Date: September 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 August 2, 2022, water board minutes. It was seconded by Ken Moonan. All were in favor.

18,366,000 gallons of water was pumped in August 2022. That is 12,343,000 gallons were pumped in August 2021.

661 new transmitters have been installed (some are new customers). There are 438 transmitters left to install. The water operators are so busy it may take them until the end of 2023 to change the last ones over. As of today, 245 of the new transmitters installed are not reporting. Zenner told us they went to "sleep" and the water operator had to go "wake" them up. Bob went to several houses and performed that task. 72 hours later, they stopped reporting again. Zenner is sending a project manager to correct the problem the week of September 19. These will all have to be read manually for the October 1 billing cycle if Zenner cannot fix the problem.

- There was a power outage on August 7 which effected much of the town. Power was lost in Fernwood but not Richland. All valves work on pressure and had to be operated manually until the power returned. Due to OSHA confined space laws, Bob Hicks, Joe Sikora and Ron Novak all had to work overtime to operate the valves. The office on CO RT 41 can operate the valves through the internet, but the power was out at that location. Supervisor Novak felt we should have a backup generator there. There could be money left from the Water District #5 project or perhaps ARPA money to purchase one.
- Vaults that house the large valves are small underground poured concrete rooms 10' deep. Inside are electric control valves operated through the internet or manually by the water operators. Recently 2 valves on Maltby Road were fixed under the WD #5

contract, saving the town approximately \$9500.00. There is extra maintenance on these valves keeping the entry area plowed in the winter and mowed in the summer.

- We currently have no 8", 10" or 12" PVC piping if a water main breaks. We could possibly borrow some piping from Sandy Creek in an emergency or purchase some with project #5 leftover money to have in stock (\$5,000 to \$10,000). A typical repair to PVC pipe is usually 5-to-10 feet long because it tends to split down the pipe.
- The Schoeller generator has been looked at again. Scriba Electric feels something in the wiring isn't right. If a power outage happens, it must be monitored to make sure it keeps running. The new one should be here by February 2023 but may not be installed until April or May depending on the weather and timing for the contractor to install it.
- A tap installed on the corner of CO RT 28 and US 11 was installed very close to an old stone foundation. This was a very expensive installation costing the town more than was charged to the owner. The next day a hydrant was hit by a car on that same corner. The hydrant appears to be undamaged. There could be hidden damage below the ground, but it is currently not leaking.
- The water pumps at our wells have never had analytical reports. When analyzed, three pumps appeared to be going bad. After consulting with Barton & Loguidice, three of the five Richland wells have been retrofitted. The contractor who originally installed the pumps was hired to check the wells in Fernwood. The report came back; they are highly compromised and required components to be replaced and wells rehabilitated. Neither well can operate at full speed.
- Well B27 in Richland tested 375 GPM but is currently only giving 193 GPM. The pump is shot. It works but not efficiently. The Schoeller well site has a 1961 electrical system that requires serious upgrades. It is \$22,420 to replace components and rehabilitate that well. There has been conversation with Sandy Creek to help with that repair. That is a possibility, but Sandy Creek is not interested in helping with the Fernwood wells. The cost for the Fernwood wells is \$39,906 for one and \$22,420 for the other well- perhaps that could come out of capital reserve funds. The highway department workers came to the Fernwood wells to clear trees and make a gravel landing for a drilling rig to set on. It should be done before winter- if it breaks in the winter the cost of the repair would be much higher.
- Sandy Creek rates have been raised from \$2.00/1,000 gallons to \$4.50/1,000. The Sandy Creek Town Board must approve and sign the proposed contract. Richland rates will also be increased. The Richland Town Board should approve the amount at the next Town Board meeting. It currently costs Richland \$3.80 to produce 1000 gallons of water. The Brennen Beach contract was also discussed.
- Krista Fox expressed concern whether 20 years from now there will be enough money in reserves to cover these types of expenses. Dough Schwalm said when water district #1 was installed, all the concentration was on just getting the water up and running. Ken Moonan also expressed interest in a maintenance plan and reserves for future repairs to the chemical feed pumps. The Richland Town Board will be meeting an hour early this month to establish emergency repair reserves and capital repair reserves as part of the budgetary process. These should have been established from the beginning of water district #1.

- Supervisor Novak went over all the various maintenance, repairs, mowing, plowing and installations. He does not feel two operators can adequately operate this system. Many items have not been properly maintained in any of the districts. We have a \$50,000,000 system with 1360 various size valves, 107 miles of roads, 720 fire hydrants to grease and install storz valves: as well as new meter installs, taps, and changing old meters over to Zenner, repairs and fixing leaks. Two operators cannot properly perform these tasks.

After a very lengthy discussion, Krista Fox made a motion to recommend to the Richland Town Board to hire another full-time employee and 2 seasonal employees into the 2023 budget. She further recommended not hiring this employee to replace a retiree or someone who quits. Ken Moonan seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Krista Fox made a second motion to perform the necessary work on the Fernwood wells before winter; possibly using reserve money if it is available. Ken Moonan seconded the motion. All were in favor

- Someone reported digging going on over the top of our water mains on NYS 3 on Sunday September 4. Supervisor Novak checked and a property owner had a leak on the property owners side of the meter pit. The owner did not call 811 before digging. The water operator picked up needed parts at the office and Supervisor Novak talked them thru the repair. Supervisor Novak stayed to make sure there were no leaks when finished. The owner will be billed for a weekend emergency repair.
- Storz valves purchased (100) are in. The Village of Pulaski to the Town line on Route 11N, Canningfactory Rd, Springbrook Rd then Route 2 will be installed first.
- WD 3# hydrants went in about 6 years ago and the contractors do not grease them when they install them. Without proper lubrication, it takes a 4' wrench to open the caps. Water district #5 will also require lubrication. It takes about 1 hour and 15 minutes for each hydrant. They will be greased before winter. WD #5 are brand new so they come off easily and can be quickly greased.

At 7:30 Ken Moonan made a motion to close the meeting. Doug Schwalm seconded it. All were in favor.

The next water board meeting is scheduled for October 4 at 6pm at the H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Yerdon
Town of Richland Water Department Clerk