

TOWN OF RICHLAND WATER DEPARTMENT

1 BRIDGE STREET PULASKI, NY 13142

MINUTES OF THE RICHLAND WATER ADVISORY BOARD

Date: April 4, 2023

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-Absent

Krista Fox

Robert Jeffry

Rob Goodsell-Absent

Others in Attendance: Supervisor Ron Novak, Water Department Supervisor

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 March 7, 2023, water board minutes. It was seconded by Robert Jeffrey. All were in favor.

The Supervisor's Clerk and the Town Clerk will be taking payments while others are out for medical reasons.

1. The new Chloritec chlorine injection pump arrived early from Germany and was placed in service for the last 48 hours (4/11/23 & 4/12/23)-this led to high chlorine residual, We are still making adjustments to dial in the correct settings.
2. Update on inline chlorine analyzers. Paperwork is completed. B&L completed the paperwork, and the cost is included in the recent project between the Town of Sandy Creek and the Town of Richland. It was \$21,000 out of Sandy Creek/Richland project. Alarm will sound if low residual. Analyzers are scheduled to be installed on April 10 and April 11 by Aqualogics.
3. The Richland Town Board disallowed Supervisor Novak to perform the engineering ARPA work as part of his salary. Must use an outside engineering firm/firms per 2018 comptrollers guidance on procurement of engineering services and the Towns procurement policy. That will add approximately \$180,000 of additional cost to the nine projects currently scheduled to take place in 2023 and 2024. The total cost of the nine projects is expected to be \$575,000 to \$590,000 before engineering services. This will likely lead to a significant increase in the user rates for the Town of Richland and the Town of Sandy Creek.
4. Hydrant flushing on all dead ends in the water districts is expected to begin the week of April 17, 2023. There will be communication regarding this on the town website.

5. We have numerous tapping requests, and we will be starting on Krebs Road and then Lehigh Road. That will begin April 25 and April 26 (weather permitting).
6. There have been four recent auto accidents involving fire hydrants with some requiring excavation and replacement of hydrants. Approximately \$8-10,000 in costs to repair/replace hydrants. These have all been submitted to the insurance companies. Required to contact DOH. Yards will need to be restored in the Spring.
7. District #5 budget will be audited on both Richland and Sandy Creek side to check for any errors.
8. WD #5 update: Sandy Creek Water Supervisor, Mike Castler as well as B&L would like the contractor (WD Malone) to finish the punch list and close the contact. Take the remaining money and split it to each town to spend on parts/maintenance. It should be noted Sandy Creek is the lead agency on this project.
9. The Emergency Response plan is complete and submitted to Oswego County. The Vulnerability Assessment plan is 90 pages of potential threats and scenarios for water systems. There were several non-compliance issues that should have a plan and timeline for compliance. We should have extra generators at the main office building (CO RT 41) and Richland wellsite. Also, a town cyber security plan is required.
10. Customers issues/complaints: There were a few questions and minimal complaints on water bills at a minimum rate of \$76.00. Districts 1 and 2 taxes were reduced by more than double the amount of the increase in water rates. The shift was to lower EDU rates to increased water rates.
11. A customers camp $\frac{3}{4}$ " water line froze underground. The Water department discovered the leak-298,000 gallons of water was lost to date (\$1100.00 water bill). The property owner hired a contractor to fix it. According to the homeowner, it should have been recognized sooner (no alarms, no notifications). The homeowners had the opportunity to shut the water off in their meter pit and elected not to. There is no legal obligation (Federal, State County or Town) that requires us to notify the homeowner. The Town of Richland notifies the homeowner as a courtesy. There was no motion to reduce their water bill made by the water board. It has always been the Towns policy that any leak incurred on the homeowners property is the responsibility of the homeowner.
12. The Water Clerk was directed by board members to increase the water bills to a rate of \$4.00/1,000 gallons of usage for Fulton Thermal and Schoeller effective immediately. This was voted on by the Town Board October 21, 2022.
13. Water District 6 update: Supervisor Novak and Town Supervisor Yerdon met with B&L representatives at the CWWF to discuss steps needed for the survey. The four-page survey letter is complete. The 530 properties mailing list is also complete. B&L is drafting a contract that should be ready by the next Town board meeting on Tuesday, April 11, 2023. District 6 included the entire rest of the Town of Richland.
14. Town Supervisor Yerdon and Water Supervisor Novak met with Fulton Thermal representatives. There are two fire hydrants behind the building that are part of a water line that is illegally connected to the towns municipal system. It was recommended to remove the illegal lines. Engineering options were provided. An answer from Fulton Thermal is expected in two weeks. There are two hookups-the illegal lines are connected to County Route 2 and one to Peck Road. The two locations have been located and marked by town of Richland personnel. The legal hydrants do not cover full

fire protection of the building; removal may impact their insurance. Also, a signed letter to increase their rate on 4/1/23 to \$4.00/1,000 gallons was provided to Fulton representatives.

15. In-line inspection on the 14" asbestos concrete pipe (last inspected in 2007) was discussed. There is currently no access port as it was removed during the WD #2 upgrade project. Historically there was one there. There are multiple pressure relief valves which will need to be excavated and removed to gain access to the main for ROV pipe video inspection. The pressure relief valves will need to be removed every 2,000-3,000 feet. We need to identify the location of the pipe and assess the current condition. \$30,000 from ARPA money was allotted and approved for this project. Project would take approximately 16 days to complete.
16. A campground on County Route 28 was recently approved by the town planning board on the property where the hydrant was stolen this winter. The campground would include 2 units using the table for EDU charges. A hydrant must be re-established (over \$4,000) to replace the stolen hydrant.
17. The campground on Canning Factory Road is located in water district #5. The associated EDU's and water use from this project will help to reduce the district 5 EDU charge.
18. Fernwood Well pump replacement was tabled by the town board. There is only 63% output by the current pump. Electrical calculations computed by Supervisor Novak indicate that the poorly performing pumps are costing the water department more than \$4,000 a year in excess electrical operating costs. The capital recovery factor for pump replacement is less than five years. They have a 20-year life expectancy.
19. Verizon has inquired about placing antennas on our water tanks. Supervisor Novak has discussed tank locations and tank heights with Verizon corporate. Supervisor Novak also discussed placement of antennas with representatives with Aqualogics and Zenner and has determined that would be no interference with the systems. Verizon operates in a high frequency licensed portion of the communications bandwidth.

At approximately 8:00 pm a *motion was made to close the meeting by Krista Fox and seconded by Robert Jeffery. All were in favor.*

The next water board meeting will be held on Tuesday May 2, 2023, in the Jury room of the H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Yerdon
Town of Richland Water Department Clerk