

TOWN OF RICHLAND WATER DEPARTMENT

1 BRIDGE STREET PULASKI, NY 13142

MINUTES OF THE RICHLAND WATER ADVISORY BOARD

Date: December 5, 2023

Kind of Meeting: Regular monthly water board meeting

Place: H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse Jury Room

Water Board Members Present: Doug Schwalm, Chairman
Ken Moonan
Krista Fox-absent
Robert Jeffery
Tim Crouch

Others in Attendance: Water Supervisor Ron Novak
Mary Yerdon, Water Clerk
Kern Yerdon, Richland Town Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER: Tonight's meeting was called to order at 6:00pm with Doug Schwalm leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Tim Crouch made a motion to accept the minutes from November 7, 2023, water board meeting. Robert Jeffery seconded it-all were in favor.

Water pumped in October was 8,037,100. Last year 7,918,600 gallons were pumped for the same time period.

- Cell tower update:** Supervisor Yerdon has given the contract to Attorney Seiter to check over. The well fields are in both Albion and Richland. The Tower is located in Richland only and adds to the Richland tax base. They will likely install it in the spring. The contract gives Richland Water District #2 \$18,000.00/year renewable every 5 years for 25 years. If it runs the full 25 years that would provide revenue of \$450,000 for that time period. Insurance liability is dealt with in the contract. The money to purchase the well site came from WD #2 loans when water district #2 was formed which is the reason revenue is applied to WD #2.
- Relevy update:** There were \$42,728.56 delinquent water bills placed on Oswego County property owners tax bills. Sandy Creek does it differently than Richland. If we changed it to the way the Town of Sandy Creek, does it, we would not relevy the September bills-only the April bills. Perhaps the town board would prefer to do it that way-that would be a town board decision.
- Chemical pumps** were both down with no backup pump or parts. Supervisor Novak and water operator Bob Hicks replaced the two new chemical feed pumps themselves. Two new chemical pumps were installed as well as two separate chlorine tanks. The old chemical pumps were a top draw out of a single tank that had to be mixed. By doing it that way, the minerals in the water would react with the hypochlorite and cause a semi solid in the tank which can be drawn into the chlorine pumps and mess them up. In order to have a dedicated power supply and dedicated separate transducer signals they had to be rewired and the SCADA system and pumps had to be reprogrammed to keep chlorine residuals from dropping or increasing significantly. There are now two new separate chlorine pumps in two separate chlorine tanks that are bottom draw (which means they are pressurized eliminating priming issues). The impurities no longer react with the chlorine and have a very clean stable environment. Cyclops and Aqualogics made those necessary program changes to the SCADA system and the pumps. While that was taking place at the Schoeller wellsite the transducer was delivered for well #1 in Fernwood. Supervisor Novak and Operator Hicks installed that while the Richland Wellsite Scada system and pumps were being reprogrammed. Both wells in Fernwood are now producing. Supervisor Novak and Operator Hicks both like the stability of the new chemical pumps. The chemical pumps are now standardized and are the same in Fernwood and at the Richland Wellsite. The Fernwood water pumps are operating at 58% and the wells should have a rehab. The new water pumps have not been ordered yet. The money has

been budgeted for 2024 but Supervisor Novak is not sure who will be doing the engineering or coordinating the rehab of the Fernwood wells.

4. **Osmose** is a company out of Buffalo that inspects electrical components. They specialize in wooden power poles and electrical components working primarily for public utilities. We have 28 poles in Richland; they are 63 years old and have a life expectancy of 40 years. They are part of the ARPA application. In that application it states it would be reviewed by a licensed engineer who recommends how to proceed with the replacement. Current codes must be met and pole spacing must be looked at. A pole cannot just be replaced, the specifications and codes must be met. It is about \$9,000 - \$10,000 per pole. Transformers have to be taken down and poles rewired. There is about \$1,000,000 in the electrical system at the Richland wellsite. These were never inspected when purchased. Supervisor Novak researched all the transformers, and they are PCB free. The cost for Osmose to mobilize is \$1749.00 and \$22.00 per pole to inspect. The Town Board tabled the project at the last meeting.
5. **Sandy Creek Billing** was for about \$102,000.00. Up about 7% from last year. .
6. Notice was put out for a new **water mechanic position** with seven people applying. A committee reviewed the 7 applications; 3 were interviewed. The committee had a recommendation. At the Town board meeting on November 29, 2023, the town board tabled hiring to fill that position until 2024. They claimed the water operators do not have a lot of work to do in the winter. They wanted to wait until the classes for a water operator start back up in the Spring. Supervisor Novak mentioned to them it would be better to have them start sooner to get familiar with the system before going to school and that the time would count towards their 1-year certification requirement. Doug Swalm was one of the interviewers and said there were some outstanding applicants.
7. **Operator Hicks truck** has something wrong with the front end and is going to Dick's Auto for repair on December 17, 2023. The tire has been destroyed by the problem-it was only 1 year old. Ever since the big snowfall we just had, there is also a transmission fluid odor. Supervisor Novak feels as long as we continue to plow $\frac{3}{4}$ mile into the wellsite, the trucks take a beating., Operator Hicks has the newest truck (2020). Supervisor Novak is driving a 2019. The 2015 truck is in very bad shape.
8. Three Town board members are looking at the **Water Supervisor position**. Currently the position is budgeted for \$52,500. Board members are not discussing what their plans are. At a previous meeting the hours were reduced to part-time. Supervisor Novak is not sure what the plans are.
9. **Fulton Hydrants**: The meeting with Fulton to go over this was postponed until December 17, 2023. There is an 8" line going behind the facility with 2 hydrants hooked to it. Plans were never reviewed/inspected, no chlorination data and no information. The meeting is to decide how to resolve the issue. They were given 2 or 3 options. They were never serviced, and they don't know if they will operate. The water supplied to the building comes from a 10" main at the front of the building. The line behind the building is for fire protection/insurance purposes. We do not have legal access to the property and there is steel stored over the water main. They are metered for the water use coming off the line on Centerville Road, but the line behind the building has no meter so we have no way of knowing if it is leaking or not. It would be a massive liability for the town to take ownership which would require an easement. They would have to move all the steel. It flows from one hydrant to another with both lines always open with a connection valve on each end of the line.
10. Supervisor Novak would like to have Gabby Waite come back to work next summer. Oswego County said they would contact Supervisor Novak in February to start the paperwork to have her work under the same program. Supervisor Novak said she was an excellent worker.
11. Our **loans for water district #5** are through Rural Water. Once the project is finished, the EFC will take over the project loan at 0% interest. This should give water district #5 property owners a reduction on their EDU charge next year.
12. There was an emergency alarm a couple weeks ago on **Well 21** at the Richland wellsite. Water was pouring out of the electrical cabinet-even with the well shut down. Four wells were connected together causing back feeding into well 21. There was an internal check valve failure. Currently well 21 has been isolated and not in use. Programming to that well has been altered and a new check valve has been ordered (due in December 6, 2023). The pump has to be pulled and if damage to the pump has occurred it will have to go back to the shop and be repaired (1 day job). P&T Supply would do the work. The check valve, parts and installation cost is \$4375.00. If the pump is damaged P&T would charge us \$150.00/hour plus the cost of parts. The warranty went off August 23, 2023, Possibly the warranty is still on the pump internal check valve (\$900.00). If the pump valve needs to be replaced the cost would be \$1500.00.

Town Supervisor, Kern Yerdon, praised the water board committee and thanked them for their time spent on the water committee. He said it was an extremely knowledgeable board, Water Board member, Doug Schwalm thanked Kern and said he learned a lot from Kern- going back to when Doug was working for the Town of Richland. He said the town is losing a "good man".

At approximately 7:15 pm a motion was made to close the meeting by Rob Jeffery and seconded by Tim Crouch. All were in favor.
The next meeting is scheduled for January 2, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Yerdon
Town of Richland Water Clerk