

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN OF RICHLAND WATER ADVISORY  
BOARD**

**TOWN OF RICHLAND  
1 BRIDGE STREETPULASKI, NY 13142**

**Date:** January 7, 2020

**Kind of Meeting:** Regular monthly water board meeting

**Place:** H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse

**Water Board Members Present:** Craig Sternberg, Chairman

Gerry Licourt

Krista Fox

Doug Schwalm

Ron Novak

**Absent:**

John Fox, Hwy Superintendent

**Others in Attendance:**

Mary Yerdon, Water Board Clerk

Ron Crandall

Linda Crandall

James Lester

Donna Gilson

**CALL TO ORDER:** Tonight's meeting was called to order at 6:00pm with Craig Sternberg leading the pledge of allegiance.

Doug Schwalm made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 4, 2019 meeting. Gerry Licourt seconded the motion. All were in favor.

In December 2019, 1,357,000 gallons of water was pumped from the Fernwood wells and 5,546,400 was pumped from the Schoeller wells. The total pumped in 2019 was 109,422,70 gallons. 75% was pumped from the Schoeller wells and 25% from the Fernwood wells.

Next on the agenda was discussion regarding the Bethel Community Center at Port Ontario. Ron Crandall brought photos of all the work accomplished and a packet of information regarding the charges for water at the building. Mr. Crandall felt this building should be charged less for water use because it has 501-C "charity" status. He verbally gave the water board several reasons he would like the water board to recommend lowering the cost. First it has historical significance (old schoolhouse) attached to an and old church/community center which was used by the underground railroad. It is now used by other non-profits for meetings, etc., it has been partially

restored using all volunteers, it has a board of directors that are all volunteers, 100% of all money received from donations, grants, and fund raisers goes back into restoration of the two buildings. There are 130 members from the community. Donna Gilson was in attendance and said she was not there as a town board member but as a resident. She suggested relief from EDU charges by adding another category to the schedule for non-profit organizations. Water board members had discussion on how this would affect other non-profits in the town such as churches, Migrant Ministries, etc. Even though Bethel is a Community Center, other non-profits should have the same advantage. Area churches have also hosted activities that benefit the community. For example the Wesleyan Church has a nursery school and the Fernwood church in the past was used as a polling place for elections. A precedent would be set to change the charge for Bethel Community Center and would require a change in overall policy for any current and future non-profit organizations.

Mr. Crandall then went on to say it was classified incorrectly in real property as a 210 (which is a residence). He was informed that the assessor will have to correct this. However, the EDU charge would still be the same because there is a tap there and the water to the building is hooked up. We have many seasonal residents that are not here in the winter and they pay the minimum charge. The community center is exempt from the property taxes but the water falls in the category of "special assessment" and is being charged 1EDU. Mr. Crandall suggested the billing for water be changed so no minimum charge would be applied—just pay for what goes through the meter. Currently, the minimum charge for 1 EDU is \$88.00 per year. The benefit is there of having the water available all year whether it is used or not. These minimum charges are connected to the budget process. NYS grants require metering. Metering also encourages people to conserve water. Meters also let the homeowner as well as the town know if someone has a leak—which also ties in with water conservation. It was suggested to Mr. Crandall to sit down with the Town Supervisor and take a close look at the budget so he would better understand where that money is being spent. Supervisor Krupke is always willing to go over the budget with taxpayers to educate them to the town's expenses. Mr. Crandall said he felt one area that could be cut back was personnel in the water department. Mr. Crandall said he did not want a reduction in the EDU charge, but to pay for the actual water used and eliminate the minimum charge. Mr. Crandall was informed that this request will require further investigation and discussion by the water board before a recommendation is made. The next meeting is March 3<sup>rd</sup> and a recommendation should be made at that meeting.

WD #5 Update: The NYSDOH has given their comments and recommendations to the engineers. There were minor changes. No news from NYSDEC as of today.

There was discussion on the new water metering system. Some areas do not pick up the readings due to poor cell service. Perhaps a change in the meters/metering

program should be a considered. Sandy Creek is not expected to use Badger meters for the next district but are strongly leaning towards Sensus meters.

There will not be a water board meeting in February. The next meeting is March 3, 2020 in the H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse jury room at 6pm.

Ron Novak made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35. Krista Fox seconded it. All members agreed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Yerdon  
Town of Richland Water Department Clerk