

TOWN OF RICHLAND WATER DEPARTMENT

1 BRIDGE STREET PULASKI, NY 13142

MINUTES OF THE RICHLAND WATER ADVISORY BOARD

Date: February 2, 2021

Kind of Meeting: Regular monthly water board meeting

Place: H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse

Water Board Members Present: Craig Sternberg, Chairman

Doug Haynes

Doug Schwalm

Krista Fox

Rob Goodsell

Absent:

Ron Novak

Others in Attendance:

Mary Yerdon, Water Board Clerk

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

Doug Haynes made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 6, 2020 meeting. Doug Swalm seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Supervisor Sternberg went over his monthly report as follows.

Water Quantities, Quality and Testing – Normal usage. Testing has been good. Received annual testing requirements letter.

Personnel – Stable and very good. Monday Team and safety meetings. Covid protocol strictly adhered to. Part time labor will likely be needed in the spring. Operators continue with confined space training.

Work Orders and Alarms -Normal activity. Damaged hydrant on Rt 3 repaired and the \$5800.00 has been turned into the insurance for payment. WD Malone did the repair working with the water operators. Normally the highway department would have been called. This is the 4th hydrant hit this year. The others were "hit and run" situations. The emergency interconnect with the Village of Pulaski was repaired today. The insurance covered this. It was caused by a lightning strike.

Maintenance – The Fernwood roof has been replaced. Plowing by the operators at Haldane during normal work hours when practical. Their hours plowing are billable to the Haldane account. Charlie Masucca is also available when needed. Craig Sternberg would be called to contact Mr. Masucca.

Materials/Equipment – Material inventories and suppliers are stable. Stocking for installations. Cargo/tool trailer to be acquired before spring at a cost of \$6-\$7,000. Safety equipment/tools will be purchased over next 90 days as the budget allows (approximately \$2500.00). Future budget considerations – Shop heater to replace dysfunctional radiant tube. +/- \$1400, signage and marker stock. +/- \$2000, New pick-up for senior operator Spring 2022 +/- \$45000- selling the old pick-up w/plow to Buildings and Grounds Dept., Fencing around 146 S Main St Richland. +/- \$13000, Camera systems required at all sites-cost to be determined.

Expansion Project (Water District #5)– Contractor now on winter break. Work will resume the end of March. Estimated completion fall 2021. Installation is complete and water is available on Spath, Ivens, Daysville, Sherman Lacy, Hinman. A few customers have connected.

Progress– Zenner system phase one infrastructure installation complete. Service reader installation to begin at March meter reading schedule.

Old Business – Wind Turbine– The town board resolved to decommission the wind turbine. If a buyer is found it will be sold. A company in Buffalo has expressed interest in purchasing it.

New Business – Margit Lacelle on Sherman Road has requested water to her property.

Water Rates Raised - Water rates for the water salesman have been raised to \$1.00 for 100 gallons and \$10.00 for 1,000 gallons.

A property on Orton Road was looked at for an EDU reduction. It was property split from a farm in WD #3 but a 10' strip touches Orton Road in WD #5. Other than the 10' strip, the property is landlocked. Craig Sternberg will check with John Howland to see if it is buildable or not. If it cannot meet the zoning requirements (setbacks, road frontage), it will be given the EDU rate of a landlocked parcel-1/10 EDU.

Another property in WD #5 has been questioned on the EDU charge. Tom Fahnestock felt his EDU should be reduced based on the nature of the business. It is a unique situation. Mr. Fahnestock also had some issues with the construction outfit placing machinery and stone on his property—basically using it as a staging area. Mr. Fahnestock felt he should be compensated. He was referred to the contractor since they are responsible for this. After careful review of the entire situation, Doug Haynes made a motion to lower the EDU to ½ and repay the overcharge for the previous two years. Doug Swalm seconded the motion-all were in favor.

Doug Swalm had a question from a water customer on CO RT 28 regarding the push under the railroad and who pays for this work. The contractor is responsible as part of the contract for all expenses incurred. Craig Sternberg will follow up on this.

Doug Haynes had concerns about fire hydrants not being shoveled out. He wanted to know whose responsibility it was. Craig Sternberg said homeowners should be cleaning them out for their own safety, but the highway department should possibly be taken care of these because they are in the right of way. There are over 900 hydrants in the Town but hydrants near homes and businesses should be kept clean as much as possible. Craig will follow this up with the Town Board.

Doug Haynes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00. Doug Schwalm seconded it. All members agreed. Next meeting is tentatively set for Tuesday, March 2 at 6 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Yerdon
Town of Richland Water Department Clerk