

# TOWN OF RICHLAND WATER DEPARTMENT

1 BRIDGE STREET PULASKI, NY 13142

## MINUTES OF THE RICHLAND WATER ADVISORY BOARD

**Date:** January 4, 2022

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

**Place:** H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse Jury Room

**Water Board Members Present::** Doug Haynes

Doug Schwalm

Krista Fox

Rob Goodsell

**Others in Attendance:**

Mary Yerdon, Water Board Clerk

Ron Novak, Water Department Supervisor

**CALL TO ORDER:** Tonight's meeting was called to order at 6:00pm with Mary Yerdon leading Pledge of Allegiance.

Krista Fox made a motion to accept the minutes from the November 2, 2021, meeting. Doug Swalm seconded the motion. All were in favor.

117,223,900 gallons of water was pumped from the wells in 2021. 124,360,000 gallons of water was pumped in 2020. In 2021 a large leak was fixed, and we had 6" of rain in the summer of 2021. Not as many campers were here and not as many pools were filled was likely the reason for the decrease.

Ron Novak explained to the board the water departments need for new tools, larger inventory and more help needed to change out the transmitters and maintain the hydrants in the system. We should have 10" and 12" pipe and repair materials in inventory. We also need shelving, tools, etc. in the trailer we purchased last year. We currently have 381 Zenner transmitters installed and have approximately 484 more to changeover from Badger to Zenner. Each changeover takes a minimum of 30-45 minutes per unit. Water District 5 increased our hydrants from approximately 600 hydrants to approximately 800 hydrants. They all need to be exercised, greased, painted, and flushed annually. This is in addition to the regular workload of maintaining the system and new installations. After a lengthy discussion, Doug Swalm made a motion to recommend to the Town Board to raise water rates from \$2.20/1,000 gallons to \$2.50/1,000 gallons. This would be a semi-annual increase in the minimum water use charge from \$44.00 to \$50.00. Krista Fox seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Business properties will have the same increases divided quarterly rather than semi-annually.

Supervisor Novak informed the water board the COVID rules for water operators. They must wear a mask when entering a home. They should ask if anyone has or was exposed to covid before entering. If the answer is yes, make an appointment for a later date.

There was approximately \$21,000 in unpaid water use bills on December 2, 2021. As of January 4, 2022, there is still approximately \$6,000 still owed in past due water bills. There was a discussion on how to best collect these amounts going forward. These amounts can either be placed on property taxes next January (2023) or water can be shut off to those properties. No motion was made at this time.

The water salesman on CO Rt 41 at the water building needs a repair. This water salesman generates a few thousand dollars a year and serves a need in the community. It was estimated at \$300-\$400 to repair it (if they can get the parts). A new one would cost approximately \$700.00. Doug Haynes made a motion to recommend purchasing a new one rather than try to fix it. Doug Schwalm seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Water Board members were asked if they would like their emails posted on our website. All members declined. They can receive messages through the town water department email.

The strong winds caused a tree to fall on the power line feeding our water site in Richland on December 11. The generator ran overnight and all day the next day keeping our water tower full, the chlorinator running and the alarm system working. National Grid was called to cut the power while Scriba Electric set a new pole and hooked up the power. Water Operator, Robert Hicks, was on duty for alarms and while checking an issue in Fernwood, he decided to double check Richland and discovered the issue. His quick thinking was the reason for the fast response time by National Grid and Scriba Electric. It was fortunate Scriba Electric had an extra pole in their inventory. We now have 5 extras in our inventory. Most of the poles at our Richland site are 60 years old and should be replaced. The expense for this will be covered by the Towns insurance company.

The only road left to finish in Water District 5 is the south end of Towne Road. There are also a couple spots that require a push under the road. These will be completed as weather permits. The contractors also started working on sections. They will start back up as weather permits. We have a list of property owners that would like to enter water district 5 as an extension. The engineers are working on that.

At 7:15 Rob Goodsell made a motion to end the meeting. Doug Haynes seconded the motion, and all agreed.

The next water board meeting will be held on February 1 at 6pm in the Jury Room of the H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Yerdon  
Town of Richland Water Department Clerk