

TOWN OF RICHLAND WATER DEPARTMENT

1 BRIDGE STREET PULASKI, NY 13142

MINUTES OF THE RICHLAND WATER ADVISORY BOARD

Date: March 1, 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, Absent

Rob Goodsell

Chairwoman Gilson, Chairwoman

Others in Attendance:

Supervisor Novak, Water Department Supervisor

Mary Yerdon, Water Department Clerk

CALL TO ORDER: Tonight's meeting was called to order at 6:00pm with Chairwoman Gilson leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Doug Haynes made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 1, 2022, meeting with two corrections. Correction one is the gas tank on County Route 41 was reported in the previous minutes as a 50 Gallon tank, but it is a 500-gallon tank. Correction two is the water salesman was replaced not repaired. Doug Schwalm seconded the motion. All were in favor.

8,386,100 gallons of water was pumped from the wells in February 2022. 7,011,300 gallons of water was pumped in February 2021.

The total water pumped in 2021 was 118,060,000. 10,236,232 gallons of water was lost to water distribution leakage. Part of the distribution leakage could be attributed to a large leak on S. Ramona Beach Road or the one on County Route 41, Oswego County using our hydrants during paving or Fire Companies using our hydrants for training purposes.

Sandy Creek purchased 3,4187,175 gallons of water. That was a revenue of \$68,374.34 to the water districts. Chairwoman Gilson questioned the cost to provide the water to Sandy Creek and what is the profit margin. She also wanted to know if any of that revenue is going into the reserve fund. Supervisor Novak was not sure. Chairwoman Gilson will research this with Supervisor Krupke

The next item on the agenda is whether farms and Schoeller should receive the same increase in water use charges as the rest of our customers. The last raise in rates was in 2017. After discussion, **Doug Schwalm made a motion to recommend to the Town Board to raise those rates the same percentage as everyone else. Doug Haynes seconded the motion, and all were in favor.**

WATER SUPERVISOR REPORT:

- Chairwoman Gilson questioned whether we have more Storz connections for our hydrants. Supervisor Novak said he just bought 5 from Blair at \$162.50 each. They only had 5 on the shelf and the new ones coming in are now \$260.00 each.

- The Village of Pulaski had a very large leak on Lake Street. They asked the Richland Water Department and the Richland Highway Department for help. The Richland Water Department personnel and Town of Richland Highway Department had personnel there all day and all night helping to fix the leak. They had so many problems isolating the leak, it caused the Village Water system to be shut down and use the emergency interconnect between the Village and Town. The town of Richland providing the village with water. The Town water department provided manpower, signs, aggregate gravel, parts, and water pumps as well as water by the time it was repaired. A couple days later another line blew out on Maple Avenue. This was one of the older transite lines. It was repaired and then in that same area the repair blew out the next day and that has also been repaired. The village is working on a way to replace the line down Maple Avenue. The town ended up using approximately 495,000 gallons of water through the interconnect with the village. When the “boil water” message was sent out to Village residents, the Town Chief Water Operator Bob Hicks was on vacation and received greater than 50 calls to see if the Town water supply was requiring boiling water as well. Sandy Creek water operator, Eric Pappa and Oswego County Health Department Environmental Engineer, Bill Havener were also at the first leak repair to offer assistance. The Town will be sending the Village of Pulaski a bill to cover our expenses.
- There was money budgeted to purchase a new truck for the water department. Supervisor Novak called to see what it would cost and when he could order and receive a truck. Ford is now closed to New York State bids and may not do it in the future. Other manufacturers may have a list of availability in April for 2023 or 2024 delivery. Several calls were made to different dealers, and they all said the same thing regarding availability of trucks. Mr. Novak was going to use the old truck rather than getting mileage reimbursement but now it has turned into a major problem getting any trucks. They could possibly lease one, keep fixing the old one, pay the retail price or try to find a used one (\$26,000-\$31,000). The truck to be replaced has 105,000 miles on it and is used for plowing at all the well sites. The other water department truck (26,000 miles on it) has a 4-wheel drive issue, but it is under warranty. It will be repaired at the Pulaski Ford dealer next week. The Town Board will have to decide how to move forward.
- During a heavy wind on the night of February 19, 2022, the power went out at the Richland well site. Water Operator, Joe Sikora went to check it out and discovered the generator had not automatically started. He manually started it and National Grid was called. National Grid said there was no issue on their end. Scriba Electric was then called, and they said they would be there in the morning. First thing in the morning, Supervisor Novak, and Operator Sikora walked the entire electrical lines servicing the wellsite and found no lines down or limbs hitting anywhere. Scriba electric found no issues on the town side of National Grid poles. A broken wire at the National Grid pole was found and National Grid came back and fixed it. During this process, it brought the generator issue up again. Supervisor Novak received a quote of \$42,956 to replace it. He is waiting for another requested quote for an 80KW Koehler generator. Milton Cat cannot get a quote at all. The Schoeller generator is a 1999 75 KW generator with an approximate value of \$8-\$11,000. This must be discussed with the Town Board.
- There is no backup power at the Central Water Works Facility. Supervisor Novak received a quote of approximately \$11,000 for a generator to be installed at that location. This will be discussed with the Town Board.
- Supervisor Novak has a list of his priorities: First another employee, second a generator, third a pole barn at the CWWF for storage, fourth a good road at the Schoeller site and fifth the Bishop Rd tower to be painted.
- Chairwoman Gilson said there may be money available from the Oswego County ARPA funds in addition to what the town has already received. She suggested Supervisor Krupke contact Legislator, Ed Gilson, for more information.
- Our main parts supplier, Blair, has informed us there is now a 5-day lock in price instead of the customary 30-day lock in. Parts are in short supply, and some are slow to receive.
- Supervisor Novak informed the water board of how much plowing is being taken care of by our operators at the Schoeller wellsite. The wells are across a field where the large town snowplow would get stuck. Doug Haynes questioned why we plow them now but not in the past. Supervisor Novak explained the wells must be accessible in case of a failure at the well. One of the water board members said possibly a tractor with a blower would be better to use than the wear/tear on the water department trucks. Mr. Haynes also stated there are two tractors sitting at the highway department and

a snowblower that could be used on one of the tractors. This information will be discussed with the Town Board.

- The highway department plows the Fernwood wellsite to the water tank. The road is 15 years old and needs repair. There is also a large stump that must be removed for Glider Oil to fill the diesel fuel tank. Supervisor Novak would like to see that 15-year-old road updated. This would be a Town Board decision.
- Supervisor Novak would like continuity in fire hydrants for future water projects. Currently there are three different brands of hydrants all using different repair parts.
- During the recent electrical problems, it was noted you have to cross a creek twice to get access to our electric poles. Supervisor Novak had to get permission from the Amish to get to those poles. The other issue with this situation is there are too many trees that could fall on the lines. They should all be cleared away from the lines.
- There are 414 Zenner meters installed-642 remain to be changed over to Zenner.
- The next item is hydrant flags. Supervisor Novak brought in three samples of the hydrant marker flags we currently are using. One used in Water District #1 was made of what appears to be rerod bent to hook to the hydrant. It was all rusted with nothing reflective on it. It was felt these flags make it difficult for the firemen to get the caps off because they rust and are attached to the threaded brass piece on the hydrant cap. Another sample flag had a plastic bottom where it hooks to the hydrant. This one is currently being installed by the contractor in WD #5. The plastic tends to break when the snowplow pushes heavy snow against it. The third sample is very similar to the ones being installed except it has a metal bottom instead of plastic. Supervisor Novak would like the town board to ask the contractor to use the metal bottom ones instead of the plastic. The metal bottom flags are approximately \$32.00 each. Supervisor Novak has ordered 150 replacement flags. Because it is a public safety concern, he would like 300-350 total-possibly using ARPA funds. **Chairwoman Gilson made a motion to recommend ordering more hydrant flags since it is detrimental to the safety of the community not to have them. Rob Goodsell seconded the motion. All were in favor.**
- Supervisor Novak informed the water board there is money in the budget for a seasonal worker. They would be working 20 weeks for 20 hours a week at \$16.50 per hour. There was discussion to start planning for a full-time worker. The current operators are eligible to retire in 4 or 5 years. Someone should be trained to take their place. **Rob Goodsell made a motion to start looking/hiring a worker to get the necessary training in the water department. Doug Schwalm seconded the motion. All were in favor.**
- The Richland wellsite has a 1,000-gallon propane tank. Suburban propane is charging \$6.95 per gallon for fuel. If they fill the tank, there is minimum delivery of 400 gallons and a delivery fee on top of that. Glider Oil charges us \$1.69 per gallon. Mr. Novak would like to change that situation.
- The town of Richland is currently in discussion with Orwell to receive water from the Town of Richland. They have 120 users. Possibly we could hire a third person to work in the water department and cover Orwell if they end up receiving water from the Town of Richland. There has been no discussion with Albion.
Zenner will be here on March 8 and March 9 to offer more training.

At 8:15 Doug Haynes made a motion to close the meeting. Doug Schwalm seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The next water board meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 5 at 6pm in the Jury Room of the H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse. Chairwoman Gilson will be out of Town, so this date may change.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Yerdon
Town of Richland Water Department Clerk