

# TOWN OF RICHLAND WATER DEPARTMENT

1 BRIDGE STREET PULASKI, NY 13142

## MINUTES OF THE RICHLAND WATER ADVISORY BOARD

**Date:** October 4, 2022

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

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

**Water Board Members Present:** Doug Schwalm, Acting Chairman

Ken Moonan

Krista Fox

Rob Goodsell

**Others in Attendance:** Supervisor Ron Novak, Water Department Supervisor  
Mary Yerdon, Water Department Clerk

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

Rob Goodsell made a motion to approve the September 4, 2022, water board minutes. It was seconded by Ken Moonan. All were in favor.

13,686,300 gallons of water was pumped in September 2022. 18,366,000 gallons of water was pumped in August 2022. Water pumped in September 2021 was 11,503,200.

- 663 new transmitters have been installed (some are new customers). There are 431 transmitters left to install.
- The billing is going out this week. 219 people have not paid their previous water bill. They can be placed on County property taxes if they are not paid on time. We have had to estimate several bills because we could not get into the houses to read the meter. Larger users are usually businesses, and we were able to read most of them. Some customers had issues with their meter and when they could be fixed, the operators did fix them.
- Part of the problem with the new transmitters, we need a/c power, the internet, and the antenna needs to be elevated because it's a radio-based system. The Zenner technician was here for three days-the operators and the Supervisor helped get three new antennas installed. Supervisor Novak said Zenner should have had the infrastructure in place, and they did not. The new Zenner meters transmit from meter to meter and with no infrastructure in place, the batteries die if they keep trying to transmit and cannot connect. We still need one more piece of infrastructure to be installed. One possibility is Orton Rd/Canningfactory Rd depending on clearing trees, etc. The town water districts could have paid \$164,000 to have all the Zenner meters installed

but the Town board felt the operators would have time to do it. Most of the estimated bills were from the area that the new antenna will cover.

- Three of our water pumps are going bad and should be replaced.
- Water rates were raised to \$3.80 per 1,000 gallons (\$76.00 minimum charge). The financial consultant, Laird Petrie, and Supervisor Novak reviewed the cost to make 1,000 gallons of water using 2021 figures. Sandy Creek is suggested to be raised to \$4.50 per 1,000 gallons. Fulton Group and Schoeller are being reviewed to determine what their cost will be raised to. Until recently the cost of generating water had not been analyzed. Laird Petrie and Supervisor Novak have been a considerable asset to turning this around. Doug Schwalm has been on the water board since it started; he said it will work well once it is turned around.
- Water districts 5 (Richland) and 3 (Sandy Creek) are nearing completion. The contractors are currently working on restoration.
- Any funds leftover from the project will be divided between the two towns based on percentage of EDU's. They will use some of these funds to rehab the Schoeller well site pumps.
- The rehab of the Fernwood pumps could use the reserve money to do that job. That is under review.
- A capitol reserve fund will be established for water district 5 after this year.
- Due to budget restrictions, a third person will not be hired until after 2023. Two seasonal employees may be hired next spring or summer. When the Richland highway department workers work on water, they receive \$1.00/hour more than their highway rate. If they help, it is mostly tree work. Supervisor Novak coordinates this with John Fox.
- ARPA requests need to be submitted to Oswego County. Supervisor Novak will be compiling that information.
- The Schoeller well fields should be cleared under the power lines (more than 120 trees). The 14" water main has 80' pine trees over those lines. If a water break occurred under those pine trees, it would be extremely difficult to repair.
- Sunday five fishermen were trespassing on the Schoeller well site property. Water Supervisor Novak, Town Supervisor Yerdon and Sandy Creek operator, Eric Pappa let them know they cannot trespass on that property. They left without incident.
- Bob Hicks water truck is getting new brakes tomorrow and new tires will be going on October 17.
- The Sanitary Survey conducted by the Oswego County Health department is tomorrow. No problems are expected.
- Julie Peterson is working on getting the extra solar credits we have at the CO RT 41 office transferred to the Schoeller well site electric bill. We had to purchase a \$600.00 meter to receive those credits.
- There are 15 fire hydrants left to perform routine maintenance on in Water District 3 – S. Rainbow Shores Rd and NYS 3. Kennedy hydrants were used on the south portion of the town, and they have been really good. The north portion of the town were Mueller, and they were not so good. Water District 5 hydrants will all be checked before the contract expires. Most of the northern part of Richland will all have Storz

valves. The Richland Volunteer Fire Department has flushed and performed maintenance on several of our hydrants in their fire district. This has been a very big help to our water operators.

- There was a fire on September 28 in the Town of Richland. An issue with a Mexico Volunteer fireman occurred when he complained that rocks had gotten into their truck pump. However, when they unhooked, and they could see the screens prior to the pump had stopped 2 small stones. Therefore, no stones had gotten through. This particular hydrant was on a dead end, and they are flushed twice a year.
- Another town (Town of Albion) was interested in purchasing water from Richland. Previously B&L Engineering had worked on the engineering. A meeting is being planned for the near future.
- If the highway department workers are working for the water department, they are paid \$1.00 per hour more than their regular highway rate. Right now, the highway department is shorthanded-when they help it will mostly be tree work. Supervisor Novak will coordinate with John Fox on this as needed.
- Water tank inspections are due. One of them in 2023 and the other one in 2024.

At 7:15 Rob Goodsell made a motion to close the meeting. Krista Fox seconded it. All were in favor.

The next water board meeting is scheduled for November 1 at 6pm at the H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Yerdon  
Town of Richland Water Department Clerk