

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RICHLAND CENTER
MUNICIPAL UTILITY COMMISSION
Wednesday, February 12, 2025 5:30p.m.,
Council Room, Municipal Building, 450 S Main St, Richland Center WI 53581
This Meeting was held in person and via Teams Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Members present: Collins, Downs, Sawle, Melby, Coppernoll, and Heiar (via phone), and Nice (via Teams)
Members absent: None
Others present: Edwards, Gald, Fischer, and Krueger

President Sawle called the meeting to order at 5:31p.m. The meeting had been properly posted.

Motion by Downs, second by Sawle to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed. All voting aye upon voice vote, motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was received and filed.

Motion by Collins, second by Coppernoll to approve the Electric Bills for February totaling \$847,515.25. Also acknowledges the balance for January, thus totaling \$818,362.00. All voting aye upon roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Melby, second by Coppernoll to approve the Water Bills for February totaling \$295,544.01. Also acknowledges the balance for January, thus totaling \$86,961.02. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Melby, second by Sawle to approve the Sewer Bills for February totaling \$128,457.07. Also acknowledges the balance for January, thus totaling \$196,962.95. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

For safety Gald reported that the electric, water and street departments did the DOT flagger training with Steve Eller and on the same day they also did the digger hotline update.

Water Superintendent Krueger reported that winter came on January 19th on a Sunday with a broken water main on Carins Ave. It was a disaster because we couldn't repair it until Monday. That neighborhood has had 6 breaks from Seminary to Kinder and from Kinder to the top of the hill there have been 7. Also, Leona and Fairview have had issues. It is on our radar for a future project. The frost is 2 ½ ft deep. On Feb 1st a plumber called and said he was at a house in town. It was vacant, but the new renters showed up to do some cleaning. There was water pouring through the ceiling and 5ft of water in the basement. Electric did come and pull the meter. Last Saturday Steve was called to a house on 4th and Church, there was water coming up there the floor. The homeowner has lateral insurance so Wertz will be there to replace it next week. Staff finished up inventory last month and worked on meter count. Steve has been working on some PSC reporting for the Auditors. This week the staff has been working on equipment maintenance. The utility had a group photo taken on Monday. After the photo, utility employees went out to the water shop for some cross training. Scott and Steve meet with MSA and the DNR about the lead service lateral replacement project. On Thursday, January 23rd there was scheduled 10 year rehab of well #6. Every ten years the pumps get pulled out of every well and rebuild them if they need it. That well was drilled in 1992 and rehabbed in 2002 and in 2014 had a brand-new pump installed in it. It is drilled to a depth of 406 ft. There is steel casing from the grade level to 150 ft down. The water level when pumps are not running is between 58 to 60ft. The pump is set at 147ft. The tech for CTW called and said that they were at the last section of pipe that they were going to be pulling out of the ground. They are 10 ft sections of 8" diameter pipe with a drive shift in the center of that. Staff went up to see what the pipe looked like. They lifted about 18ft of material, lifted it up about 4" pulled the plate out and lifted it up another 6" and everything dropped 406 ft. The main thing no one was hurt. They came back a week later and TV the well. They were able to pull the damaged pipe up minus the 2ft of strainer that had been crushed. They are working on repairing the pump. The company will make it right with whatever needs to be done.

Wastewater Superintendent Fischer reported that last month we were going to do another trial with Schreiber on January 14th, 15th and 16th. They were hoping to see a 20% reduction in BOD. It actually was a 49% reduction in BOD. Town and Country is working on the calculations so we can have a rerating of the capacity of the plant. Also, Fairfield Egg Specialties, we do not have a contract or a long term commitment with them. They are doing some exploration to figure out the best way to handle their waste in Muscoda. It doesn't seem like they will be a long-term customer. So there is a lot of energy towards Schreibers. There is still the potential for the wastewater plant to not take septage anymore. There also may have to be some billing changes. Our ordinances were rewritten. There will be another trial for Shreibers but Todd would like to see a little more long term. The trials have only been 3 days, he would like to try a month. We will be having the employees out to the treatment plant for more cross training. The plan is for the on-call staff to be able to help each other out. There have been some issues with the pool. The pool has been built like an indoor waterpark. The pumps have been seizing up. Todd and some of his staff went to look at the pumps. The pumps are rusted. There needs to be some preventative maintenance.

Electric/Utility Manager Gald reported on January 18th some of the electric crew went up to Elroy because they had a pole get hit. Next day was the water main break. There have been some issues with Frontier with a ton of locates. They did hit a primary in Allison Park. They can legally bore within 18" of the marks for locate. They were about 20" from our marks. No one got hurt but Scott is looking into the what ifs. We send the crews out to locate but a lot of electric utilities do not do locates anymore just for the liability standpoint. Hunter finished his second of three weeks of meter tech school. He will be done in May. They have been trimming trees. Darren went downtown and helped plow snow. The first 900 AMI meters are installed. 1685 more are on the way. The disconnect function still doesn't work and the auto read is also not working. It project is moving forward. We will be out of contract with Scantron in a month. Scott went to the EC meeting at WPPI last month. There is a meeting with Aliant for a territorial issue. The utility is looking at hosting a lunch for our industries. Scott is going to WPPI for training on our billing software. Kwik Trip East is going to remodel. There have still been questions on the DOT project that is projected to take place in 2028 or 2026. Jim and John showed interest in the MEUW conference in LaCrosse. The office is still doing a great job. Scott did go to the Capital for the MEUW Legislative Day.

For correspondence Scott Sawle read a Thank you from the Richland School Board of Education for the donation of \$900.00 for delinquent student lunch accounts.

A motion made by Collins, second by Coppernoll to donate \$110.00 to the Richland Fire Department. The funds go towards fire safety materials for schools. The funds are reimbursed by WPPI. All but Downs voted aye upon roll call. Downs abstained. Motion carried.

There were no public comments.

Collins mentioned that he heard Pine Valley in going through some stuff with the DNR for their water supply. He wondered if there was anything the utility could help with. Steve did say they are under mandate from the DNR for their reservoir. The maintenance man did reach out to Steve because some studies were completed when we were sighting our reservoir. They are working with Delta 3 Engineering to look into it. Pine Valley is on our sewer. Todd Coppernoll thanked everyone that is helping with the situation with the aquatic center. In his opinion the pump house was poorly designed. Collins said he felt the pool was built like an indoor water park. Coppernoll also noted that there is a fairly large annexation request. The land is close to city utilities, but they are not there. The Hospital is starting to talk about building again, possibly 2031.

Motion by Melby, second by Downs to move into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. sec 19.85 (1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. The purpose of the closed session is to discuss an employee's job performance.

Closed Session

Motion by Collins, second by Coppernoll to reconvene in open session pursuant to Wisconsin Stat, Sec 19.85(2) to vote on matters discussed during closed session. All voting aye upon voice vote. Motion carried.

Motion by Collins, second by Melby to adjourn. All voting aye upon voice vote, motion carried without dissent at 6:49p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by:

Angie Edwards