

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RICHLAND CENTER
MUNICIPAL UTILITY COMMISSION
Wednesday, May 8, 2024 4p.m.,
Council Room, Municipal Building, 450 S Main St, Richland Center WI 53581
This Meeting was held in person and via WebEx

Members present: Sawle, Schaub, Heiar, Collins, Melby (4:15), Downs (4:25), and Nice (4:50)

Members absent: None

Others present: Krueger, Fischer, Gald, Mueller, Ben (via phone) and Lisa from Town & Country, Andy Zimmer (MSA via phone)

President Sawle called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The meeting had been properly posted.

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

Treasurer's report was received and filed.

Motion by Collins, second by Schaub to approve the Electric bills for May totaling \$595,463.56. Also acknowledges the balance for April, thus totaling \$761,292.87. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Heiar, second by Schaub to approve the Water bills for May totaling \$58,645.89. Also acknowledges the balance for April, thus totaling \$89,753.33. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Schaub, second by Heiar to approve the Sewer bills for May totaling \$119,060.82. Also acknowledges the balance for April, thus totaling \$188,927.71. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

For safety Gald reported that Steve Elhers from MEUW and Randy Larson were in town. Krueger said that Elhers did observe the water dept out in the field today.

Lisa from Town & Country explained to the commission the results of the rate case study that was done for the Wastewater Utility. Wastewater Superintendent Fischer recommends the 30 year term. Sawle made a motion to uphold rate increase based on the numbers of a 30 year term effective July 1, 2024, second by Schaub. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Andy Zimmer from MSA explained to the commission the grant for the DNR Environmental Improvement Fund Program for 2025. The grant would cover the replacement for lead service on the private side of the curb stop for 50% of the cost. Also MSA's fees to prepare the application is reimbursable under the grant. Collins made a motion for MSA to prepare a funding application for lead service line replacement, second by Schaub. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Heiar made a motion, second by Sawle to send the resolution for MSA to prepare the application onto the Common Council for approval. All voting aye upon roll call, motion carried.

Motion made by Sawle, second by Collins to donate a fire hydrant to the GRACE Live Auction. All voting aye upon roll call, motion carried.

Water Superintendent introduced the idea of plumbers receiving an incentive for helping identify lead service lines from the curb stop to the meter. Collins made a motion, second by Schaub for Steve to draw up an agreement to offer a \$5.00 incentive for plumbers to identify service lines in the customers' houses. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Steve explained that there is a grant available to the Fire Station to replace the black top beside the station. Steve would like to use the utility equipment with the staff that is on the fire department if the grant goes through. Heiar made a motion, second by Downs to allow the fire station to use the utility equipment if the grant goes through. All voting aye upon roll call, motion carried.

Schaub made a motion, second by Nice to sponsor the Richland County Fair for \$500.00. All voting aye upon roll call, motion carried.

President Sawle had spoken with the mayor and was told that if the commission meetings were on Mondays he could attend. Sawle decided that they should think about it and if someone thinks it should be changed, it will be put back on the agenda.

Gald lead the discussion to move the utility office out to the shop. He stated that he goes to a lot of other utilities that have the office in the front and the shop in back. Gald thinks it would promote a better team atmosphere if it was all under one roof. The commission asked Andy Zimmer to draw up some plans to potentially move the utility office out with the electric and water shop. The commission will discuss the results at the next meeting.

Electric Superintendent Gald reported that the Electric new hours will be Monday – Thursday 6:30a.m – 3:30p.m. and Friday 6:30a.m. – 10:30a.m. year round. The crew has been working on maintenance and switching out poles. Scott thanked everyone that went to the WPPI Dinner in Mt. Horeb. There were 6 electric disconnects for non-payment. Scott attended an advisory meeting at Southwest Tech. Next week John, Jim and Scott will be in Marshfield at the MEUW Conference.

Water Superintendent Krueger reported that Terry passed his Groundwater Exam and has his permit for his CDL. Valve exercising is about a quarter of the way through the system. They continue to vac looking for lead services. Water main flushing is the week of June 10th. All the seasonal meters are in. G-Pro possibly is looking to start mid-week next week. Todd and Steve will be on the morning show.

Wastewater Superintendent Fischer reported the public information meeting for street projects went well. Brad will be retaking his Lab exam in June in Fennimore. Evan will be taking his Disinfection exam the same day. Disinfection starts May 1st. It was great to have the commission meeting at the plant last month. Todd would be more than willing to give anyone a tour anytime. Cedar Grove had a separator that went bad not replaced. In the last month the waste was much cleaner. Todd would like to tour the Cedar Grove plant and take Lenny with him because of his knowledge in the dairy industry.

Office Manager Mueller reported that the PSC reports have been filed from the auditors. She was asked to attend Career Day at the Intermediate School on May 16th. Gerald, from the electric department, will also be attending.

There was nothing for correspondence.

There was no public comments.

Scott Sawle mentioned it is public service week and he wants everyone to know that he appreciates everything they do and their employees. Nice commented that he also really appreciates the employees. Kevin Melby mentioned that for the last meeting he had to dial in and had a hard time hearing everything. Steve Downs thanked Todd for the tour last month and apologized for being late.

Motion by Collins, second by Heiar to adjourn. All voting aye upon voice vote, motion carried without dissent at 5:43p.m. Meeting adjourned

Minutes submitted by:

Vanessa Mueller