

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RICHLAND CENTER
MUNICIPAL UTILITY COMMISSION
Wednesday, April 12, 2023 4p.m., 450 S. Main Street
This Meeting was held in person and via WebEx

Members present: Sawle, Nice, Heiar, Collins, and Schaub (4:04p.m.)

Members absent: Melby and Wallace

Others present: Mueller, Fischer, Krueger, Gald, Andy Zimmer and Andrew (MSA)

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

Motion by Heiar, second by Nice 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 Heiar to approve the Electric Bills for April totaling \$716,818.93. Also acknowledges the balance for March, thus totaling \$811,384.54. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Nice, second by Sawle to approve the Water bills for April totaling \$69,673.26. Also acknowledges the balance for March, thus totaling \$121,890.74. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Heiar, second by Collins to approve the Sewer bills for April totaling \$123,643.93. Also acknowledges the balance for March, thus totaling \$373,576.10. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

The Departments completed CPR training with Steve Ehlers 2 weeks ago.

Water Superintendent Krueger explained that the current mower used by the water department is 8 years old and requires maintenance. He had spoken with Dave Fry from the Parks and Rec to see what he would recommend for a mower and he said Ferris. Steve received bids from 6 different dealers. St. Joseph on Hwy 14 was the lowest at \$7,783.09. Collins made a motion, second by Sawle to approve the purchase of a lawn mower from St. Joseph Equipment for \$7,783.09. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

A motion made by Collins, second by Sawle to approve the water department equipment revised rates for 2023. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Water Superintendent Krueger presented the bid for a trench box. This item was in the budget for \$11,750.00. There is one vender for the Midwest and their bid was for \$11,679.00. A motion was made by Heiar, second by Sawle to approve the bid for the trench box for \$11,679.00, All but Nice voted aye on roll call, motion carried. Nice stepped out of the meeting.

Electric Superintendent Gald reported that JJ is back to work after his knee replacement. He has no restrictions as of Monday. They have been working on pole change outs and have quite a few locates. Becki Hilleshiem's new house has underground ran to it as well as the house to the south of it. There have been some mapping updates. Scott said he ordered two AMI meters for the wastewater treatment plant so now they will not have to drive there to read the meters. There was a review of some of the multipliers and we were low on some. He has been working with David from WPPI with MCARE. They will be able to have work orders done in Northstar. Jones and Fillback need EV chargers to be compliant vehicle allotment. The electric department had their trucks inspected yesterday. Hunter and Darren are reading the book "if I Were a Lineman" virtually statewide for Lineman Appreciation Day. We were notified that the electric utility is in the top 25% for reliability. The rate case has been submitted to the PSC. Scott would like to know which commissioners would like to go to the MEUW conference.

Water Superintendent Krueger reported that the auditors will be here next week so he is wrapping up information for them. We finished the winter season with only 2 water main breaks. The street project pre con meeting with MSA and G-Pro is April 25th. The Public informational meeting is May 11th in the evening. The start date is May 25th. The city has meetings for Stori Field Development on April 20th. The staff attended the Rural Water Conference in La Crosse last week. There was a lot of good information. He made some contacts of pre-fab booster stations. The west reservoir had a valve replaced a couple of weeks ago. All reservoirs have security fencing with a locked gate. The west reservoir has about 11" gap under the gate. A young lady and her friend crawled under and used the ladder that was hanging on the fence to reach the access ladder. She was dangling off with one foot and one hand then looked up and saw the camera. She and her friend left really quickly. The water department contacted the police and the girls received \$450.00 trespassing tickets. There was an alarm at well 8 across from the high school. One of the chlorine cylinders was leaking. Steve had someone come out and cap it but it did not hold. Steve told him that the cylinder needed to be removed. The water department set aside some time next week to help distribute final disconnect notices. The guys are doing valve excising. Jake has class next Tuesday and Wednesday. They had to replace a couple of curb stops downtown. The kits for PFAS testing has arrived.

Wastewater Superintendent Fischer reported that he will be gone for the public information meeting on May 11th. He will have someone from his department there. Property demos are done. Mark Cupp has a rental in town that had a fire. They were tearing it down and Dave Huth went to the property asked if they had a permit. He was told no and they were told at city hall that one was not needed. It looks like they capped the sewer lateral. As for the Crossroads building they have no idea what was done there. There has been some interest in the ad for employment for wastewater operator. The SCADA upgrade is complete except for the on call cell phone. There are some issues that have to get worked out. The only ones that have access to billing software is Derrick and Todd, everyone else has read only access. Evan will be taking his lab test next Tuesday.

Office Manager Mueller reported that the audit is next week so she will be busy with that. Also the winter moratorium ends April 15th, we will be sending out about 85 final disconnect notices. She would like the commission to consider moving the May meeting to the 9th instead of the 10th due to the MEUW conference.

President Sawle asked if the commission had any issues with moving the meeting next month to the 9th. There was no objection. Gald also wanted to inform the commission that the electric department will be starting their summer hours.

Andrew from MSA presented the commission with an update of the Water System Model Update. The Water System Model Update was last done in 2016. This shows all the improvements and upgrades that have been done and that still need to be done. This also shows the projection of growth and expansion and what that means for the water infrastructure.

There was nothing for correspondence.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Collins just wanted to apologize for not attending last month's meeting.

A motion by Heiar, second by Collins to adjourn. Upon voice vote, motion carried without dissent at 5:50p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Vanessa Mueller