

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RICHLAND CENTER  
MUNICIPAL UTILITY COMMISSION  
Tuesday, May 9th, 2023 4p.m., 450 S. Main Street  
This Meeting was held in person and via WebEx Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Members present: Sawle, Schaub, Heiar, Collins, Melby, and Downs (4:35)

Members absent: Nice

Others present: Gald, Krueger, Mueller, Fischer, and Laura and Kevin of Peoples Bank

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

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

Treasurer's report was received and filed.

Motion by Heiar, second by Schaub to approve the Electric Bills for May totaling \$687,848.23. Also acknowledges the balance for April, thus totaling \$873,390.36. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Schaub, second by Sawle to approve the Water Bills for May totaling \$96,816.73. Also acknowledges the balance for April, thus totaling \$137,304.28. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Schaub, second by Melby to approve the Sewer Bills for may totaling \$155,310.46. Also acknowledges the balance for April, thus totaling \$246,619.60. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Gald reported that his crew will receive an award for safety at the MEUW Conference. They will be awarded the Gold Category for safety. Fischer noted that the non-fire department employees are up-to-date on CPR training. He also said there was a safety training that had be rescheduled several times before due to weather.

Scott Gald presented the commission with bids from 3 different dealers of digger trucks. Utility Sales bid of \$333,215.00 came in at the lowest. The guys really did not care for the design and features of this truck. Scott is recommending the purchase of the digger truck from Altec for the bid of \$348,568.00. There was the amount of \$400,000.00 in the budget for a new digger truck. We will not receive the truck until 2025 with no money down. Collins made a motion, second by Schaub to approve the purchase of a new digger truck for the Electric Utility from Altec for \$348,568.00. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Sawle made a motion, second by Schaub to adopt the 17<sup>th</sup> Addition APPA Safety Manual. All voting aye on voice vote, motion carried.

Laura and Kevin from Peoples Community Bank gave a presentation to the commission. Peoples Bank can offer a higher interest rate on municipal accounts. The rate calculates to be higher then what we are currently receiving. The commission had decided to discuss the proposal and possibly hear what more banks have to offer.

The newest member for the commission, Steve Downs council rep, arrived at the meeting. He is a school bus driver so during the school months it will be difficult for him to make the 4p.m. meeting time. President Sawle welcomed him and stated that they can discuss possibly changing the meeting time. He also informed the new members about orientation at WPPI.

Electric Superintendent Gald reported that his lead guy Rod had his appendix burst 2 ½ half weeks ago so he has been off for 3 weeks. Hunter and Darren did a virtual reading of the book "If I Were a Lineman" for WPPI. It is on YouTube. They did a great job. JJ is back from his knee surgery and is doing great. The crew is changing some overhead to underground and changing out poles. The crew is doing a great job. Don Harnish and Randy Larson

were here and worked with the crew on one of the poles and had great things to say. Mike Peters, CEO of WPPI will be here in July to give a presentation. The new bill comparison went out, we are cheaper than a lot of competitors. Scott has been going to meetings with WPPI for territory issues with Aliant. They are negotiating purchasing power from Aliant in return for municipalities are allowed to grow with cities.

Water Superintendent Krueger reported the kick off for the 2023 street project with the contractor was a couple weeks ago. They are supposed to start on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. This week Thursday is the public information meeting. Next week on the 16<sup>th</sup> is a walk through with Gerke for a punch list from last year phase 1 Seventh Street. Jake took his Iron Removal and Soften Class a couple weeks and has not scheduled his DNR exam. Staff has been working on valve exercising and there was an abandoned service on the 200 block of S Grove St. The locates have been coming in to start removing lead. LW Allen has been at the Westside Reservoir to work on upgrades. On April 13<sup>th</sup> the three department heads took a tour with Ashley and Jason, looking for buildable sites. On April 27<sup>th</sup> Steve received an email from the DOT Utility Coordinator that the Hwy 14 to County O highway plan was rescinded. We will now have to wait until 2026. The water department will be doing main flushing the week of May 22<sup>nd</sup>. All the seasonal meters have been installed and will be filling the pool. The audit has been completed and our profit margin was 4.3%. Steve also wanted to give a shout out to his staff, Travis Walters and Jake Falk, this week is drinking water week and there is a lot that they look after for the community.

Wastewater Superintendent Fischer reported that he will be leaving for vacation after work tomorrow so he will not be at the Gerke walk through or the Public informational meeting, but Dave Huth and his staff will be. There are issues with the man holes for the punch list for Gerke that they will have to fix. The other morning we came in and there was issues with one of the small pumps. We discovered that we will have to start doing more flushing again. Applications were due on April 21<sup>st</sup>. There were four applicants, Todd would like to interview all four. He is looking at doing interviews the week of 5/22. Evan took his lab exam and did not pass. He just needs to work on retaking it. There will be bills for extra testing for copper and other things. Our permit expires July of 2024 and there is a battery of tests 6 months prior to renewal. We now have dual coliform samples. Lastly we have a hauler of Mexican cheese waste from Darlington. They have a silo full of waste. The waste on the bottom goes to Milwaukee. He needs to find a place for the top. He brought a load and a sample. Todd looked at the sample and said "No" to dumping here.

Office Manager Mueller reported the auditors were here and all PSC reports were due May 1<sup>st</sup>. The audit went good, better than she expected due to the new software. She does continue to struggle with the Civic software and getting quick responses with help desk tickets. There was an issue with everyone's W2s for 2022, she has been waiting 2 weeks for a response. Grant and Angie will be going to WPPI tomorrow for training. Grant went today and Vanessa will be there on Thursday.

For correspondence there was a Thank You from The Fire Safety Council for donation to the Fire Station.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Collins asked about the security system the electric is installing and if Scott had it in his budget. Scott explained that with the truck getting pushed back there will be funds available. Commissioner Downs also had a few questions for Superintendent Gald. Scott invited Downs to tour WPPI with him and Sawle. Superintendent Fischer also invite Commissioner Downs to stop at the facilities any time.

A motion by Heiar, second by Sawle to adjourn. Upon voice vote, motion carried without dissent at 5:32. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by:

Vanessa Mueller