

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RICHLAND CENTER
MUNICIPAL UTILITY COMMISSION
Wednesday, August 9, 2023 4p.m., 450 S. Main Street
This Meeting was held in person and via WebEx

Members present: Nice, Heiar, Collins, Melby, Downs, Sawle, and Schaub

Members absent: None

Others present: Fischer, Gald, Krueger, Mueller, and Zach Adams (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 Sawle, second by Schaub to approve the Electric Bills for August totaling \$1,010,217.17. Also acknowledges the balance for July, thus totaling \$1,137,475.27. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Heiar, second by Collins to approve the Water Bills for August totaling \$211,617.97. Also acknowledges the balance for July, thus totaling \$667,561.75. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Nice, second by Melby to approve the Sewer Bills for August totaling \$294,399.79. Also acknowledges the balance for July, thus totaling \$321,382.36. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Zach Adams from MSA gave an update to the commission. In his update he stated the all underground utility work is completed. The first layer of asphalt will be going down tomorrow. The substantial completion date is August 18th with final completion date set for September 15th. He feels that the contractor will be in compliance of this date. The third payout of \$340,371.47 was paid. That was 63% of the total budget for the project. The predicted future final cost will be 5% below the budgeted construction cost for water and sewer.

There was no motion made on the request of sponsorship for La Fritanga's First Hispanic live music event.

For safety Gald shared that Steve Elhers has been training the new hires. Rowen Wipperfurth, Electric Terry Thielmann, Water and Brad Wilson, Wastewater. The commission welcomed them.

Electric Superintendent reported that we received an award for Smart Energy Provider. The deadline for the RP#3 application is September 30th. On Saturday the line crew will be going to Muscoda to Scot Industries to assist in putting T Body Elbows on. The Olson Sub did get the fiber ran to so should be able to get information and also add a couple cameras. The generator is only wired for the Police Department side of the building. Scott did get an estimate for a generator for the whole building. He feels it is something we will need for AMI meters in the future. He did place the first order of AMI meters for \$253,000.00. This is the first of three. WPPI offers a 10 year loan at 0% interest and it is paid through the power bill. We would pay 1% upfront and that would leave cash on hand for other projects. The WPPI Conference is September 14th and is one day. If anyone wants to attend please let Vanessa or himself know. MEUW is having Capitol Day for their 95th Anniversary. They are asking for members to send trucks or other equipment to do three laps around the Capitol on October 18th. The department heads attended a meeting regarding the proposed new hospital.

Water Superintendent Krueger reported that they did meet with an AMI meter salesman and the lead time for water meters is 6 months. At this time he is just going to continue to save and maybe check in March and possibly order then. The electric meters have to be installed first. The fire hydrant that the Utility donated to GRACE Auction brought \$350.00. Glasbrenner reached out for some utility estimates for the new hospital. The city is working on some development agreements. Terry has met with Steve Elhers for safety orientation. While Steve

was participating in the K-9 Run/Walk as he was crossing the Hwy 80 North Bridge, he saw a pipe sticking up out of the water. It is an old water main that was replaced in 2014. There was also a force sewer main that was exposed. Steve met with Zach and took some pictures so they can discuss with Andy how to get the sewer main protected and the water main removed. Friday night at 9:30 p.m. Travis called Steve. There was water coming up out of the street on Sunset Lane. Steve called diggers hotline and called Terry in. It was the worst spot for a break, there were 49 houses out. The water was back on at 1:15a.m. and the hole was filled in.

Wastewater Superintendent Fischer reported Brad, Evan, and Dave attended a Collection System Seminar in Marshfield. There was discussion from the DNR about the Infrastructure money is prioritized for lift stations. Todd would like to apply for grants to upgrade some of our lift stations. He discussed the issue of the exposed forced sewer main by the bridge on 80 North. Todd, like the other superintendents attended meeting for the proposed hospital. Town and Country gave Todd a rough estimate for sewer at 1.56 million. The estimate for water and sewer together is 3.5 million. Evan has completed his Lab Certification, and will start working weekends. Brad completed his CDL Permit testing.

Office Manager Mueller reported we introduced budget billing. We have had quite a few customers sign up. The office has vacations this month, so we are short staffed. Vanessa will be attending civic training in the Dells September 14 & 15. There is part that is virtual that Angie is attending. Vanessa continues to struggle with the support from civic

There was nothing for correspondence.

There were no public comments.

Scott Sawle said the mayor called him and said that he would like to set up a meeting with the department heads to discuss planning for the city. He wanted to set up something for a week from Monday.

Motion by Collins, second by Melby to move closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat sec 19.85(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation of performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. The purpose of this closed session is to discuss the annual performance evaluations done by the personnel committee of the Office Manager, Electric Superintendent, Water Superintendent and the Wastewater Superintendent. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Closed session

Collins made a motion to move to open session, second by Sawle. All voting aye upon voice vote. Motion carried.

A motion by Heiar, second by Collins to adjourn. All voting aye upon voice vote, motion carried without dissent at 5:37p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by:

Vanessa Mueller