

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RICHLAND CENTER
MUNICIPAL UTILITY COMMISSION
Wednesday, December 13, 2023 4p.m., 450 S. Main Street
This Meeting was held in person and via WebEx Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Members present: Nice, Schaub, Collins, Melby, Heiar (via WebEx), Sawle, Downs (4:35)

Members absent: None

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

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 meeting as printed. All voting aye upon voice vote, motion carried.

Treasurer's report was received and filed.

Motion by Schaub, second by nice to approve the Electric bills for December totaling \$701,565.87. Also acknowledges the balance for November, thus totaling \$908,206.45. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Schaub, second by Melby to approve the Water bills for December totaling \$129,347.88. Also acknowledges the balance for November, thus totaling \$489,259.21. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Schaub, second by Melby to approve the Sewer bills for December totaling \$215,716.76. Also acknowledges the balance for November, thus totaling \$393,447.07. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Scott reported that Elhers from MEUW watched the line crew switch out a pole and did a report for them. Steve reported that Terry completed Excavation, Safety, and Confined Space training in Plover.

Andy Zimmer from MSA gave the commission an update on street projects. Phase 2 of the street project is semifinal as of today. MSA is recommending to hold out \$5,000.00 in retainage until the reports for the lateral are in. For the budget we are at 95% of approved construction cost for water and 98.5% for sewer. We sent final payment to Gerke and waiting for clarification for Allison Park project for amounts for final payment. Phase 3 plans are out for bids. The estimated cost is \$1,270,429.00. The estimate is \$142,000.00 over budget. The water exceeds by \$44,000.00 with alternates, without it is \$30,000.00 under. The sewer is \$6,000.00 under budget. There are 5 from the list of pre-approved pre-qualified contractors. The erosion control study from earlier, the DNR is saying that the utility can test out of chemical addition by completing 2 rounds of testing 6 months apart in 40 different locations. There is a grant that the utility will apply for regarding the lead and galvanized services in the city.

Wastewater Superintendent explained with Vanessa's help where the funds from the Equipment Replacement Fund and Rate Stabilization Fund are and can be utilized. There is interest from the accounts that can be used. The fourth step for the sewer increase will be implemented as of January 1. Also there will be a rate case study done to see where the rates need to be for profit.

Electric Superintendent Gald reported they have been working on switching poles. He ordered new shelving for the shop to organize inventory. He met with Cody from Sun Prairie to understand the new system better. Scott will be at WPPI for Board of Directors meeting tomorrow. There have been a few blinks. A couple of squirrels and a cabinet needs to be replaced by the campus. The guys have been trying to get vacation time used up.

Water Superintendent Krueger reported that bids for next phase are due December 19th. Auditors will be here next week for preliminary work. He has been working on PSC reports and inventory. His staff have been working on changing meters. They will be starting their annual well servicing. Steve watched a webinar for reporting lead services last week. There will be another one on the changes in the Lead and Copper Rule. Ground temps are

warmer than last year this time. There have been 2 water breaks since the last meeting. One on Valley View and one on Cairns Ave. After this meeting there is meeting with the DOT on the construction for Hwy80 North from 8th Street to Hwy C but the work is not until 2029. Visa Sewer had tapped into a fire hydrant for water so we will be sending them a bill. We do offer bulk water from a tank at the shop.

Wastewater Superintendent Fischer reported that he is hoping to have some answers for the Industrial Agreement after December 19th. He would like to have himself, Lori Cupp (attorney), Scott Sawle and Ben Hiediman in the meeting for the contract. On June 30th 2024 our permit expires. The application is due January 2, 2024. On Monday at 9a.m. there is a conference call with Todd and Ben and the DNR. They will be discussing the mercury variance and the multi discharge variance. We did spend \$455,000.00 for restoration on Pine River and discharging phosphorus in the river. The DNR is unsure how to trade credit for this.

Office Manager Mueller reported bills will be going out tomorrow with the electric rate increase and we are now absorbing credit card fees. We did have an issue on the due date, our online payment and credit card processor went down. All the auto payments set up through myaccount failed. The customers received emails and we sent emails once we knew what had happened. Vanessa gave an extra day before penalties were applied. We have been busy with the end of year. The audit will be in a month. It is earlier than normal, but it will be nice to have it done.

There was nothing for correspondence.

There were no public comments.

Todd Fischer asked Commissioner Melby what the city would like to see from the utility on the Public works side of the street projects. Melby said that as long as Andy Zimmer is there he didn't think that Todd and Steve need to be there. Collins wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and thank you for all the work you do.

A motion by Collins, second by Melby to adjourn. All voting aye upon voice vote, motion carried without dissent at 5:13p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by:

Vanessa Mueller