

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RICHLAND CENTER  
MUNICIPAL UTILITY COMMISSION  
Wednesday, January 10, 2024 4p.m., 450 S. Main Street  
This Meeting was held in person and via WebEx Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Members present: Schaub, Heiar (via WebEx), Collins, Melby, Sawle, Nice, and Downs (4:40 p.m.)

Members absent: None

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

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

Motion by Nice, 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 Collins to approve the Electric bills for January totaling \$672,356.91. Also acknowledges the balance for December, thus totaling \$808,162.97. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Schaub, second by Melby to approve the Water Bills for January totaling \$67,061.14. Also acknowledges the balance for December, thus totaling \$170,197.25. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Sawle, second by Nice to approve the Sewer bills for January totaling \$153,946.88. Also acknowledges the balance for December, thus totaling \$287,580.65. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

For safety Krueger reported that the water and electric guys are registered for the Diggers Hotline safety class that is virtual on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Wastewater Superintendent Fischer requested bids to replace the department's 2019 Ford Edge. Jones Chevrolet came in with the low bid for a 2024 Chevy Equinox at \$32,604.00 before trade in. The next closest bid was from Fillback for a 2024 Ford Edge at \$24,480.00 with trade. Both dealerships were offering the same for our trade at \$17,000.00. The Chevy Equinox comes in at \$15,604.00. Fischer is recommending to accept the bid for the 2024 Chevy Equinox from Jones Chevrolet. A motion made by Collins, second by Schaub to accept the bid from Jones Chevrolet for the 2024 Chevy Equinox for \$15,604.00. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Andy Zimmer, from MSA, presented to the commission the prequalified bids for Phase 3 2024 Eighth Street Utility and Roadway Improvements Projects. He recommends the commission accept the bids and awards it to G-Pro Excavating LLC in the amount of \$1,130,694.00. A motion by Collins, second by Sawle to award the bid to G-Pro Excavating LLC for \$1,130,694.00. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

A motion made by Sawle, second by Schaub to recommend City approval of the Street Department allocation costs in the amount of \$377,854.49 for Phase 3 2024 Eighth Street Utility and Roadway Improvements as presented by MSA. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Electric Superintendent Gald was attending the Superintendent Conference in the Dells so he reported via phone. There was a seminar given by the creator of Open Point which will be able to help with PSC reports. He had updates from some of his vendors and they are saying that lead times are improving. The AMI meters for the residential customers have been ordered and the meter for the new sewer plant should be here next week. The guys have been working on organizing inventory. They have also started tree trimming. Scott has been working on end of the year and PSC reports.

Water Superintendent Krueger reported that he is really glad to see G-Pro Excavating LLC coming back to do more work for us on Phase 3. The auditors will be here the week of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. They have been working on inventory and

PSC reporting to get ready for them. Travis and Terry are working on the meter count. Last year was the most water pumped since 2014 at 400,591,000 gallons. Staff did get quite a few meters changed out, and have been doing well maintenance. They also were able to get comp and vacation time used by the end of the year. There is a gentleman working on a housing development on Rainbow Dr. There is already a water main there. The ground has little to no frost. We had a water main break Monday evening on Oak Street. They finished and back to the shop by 2a.m. There is no frost and that main shows on our mapping it is on a dead end. Steve thinks there is more to come on this situation because there could possibly be a garage built over the main.

Wastewater Superintendent Fischer reported permit application was due January 2<sup>nd</sup>. There was a conference call with the DNR on December 18<sup>th</sup>. They recommend that we continue with the mercury variance but that we do not with the MBV for phosphorus. Town and Country is working on a trade agreement for all the rip rack work that was done there should be credits. We are one of the first utilities to do this. The standby agreement for RCRE is at a standstill. Currently the valves are locked for the time being. There is no agreement and no date set for any negotiations.

Office Manager Mueller reported that she is busy with year-end and getting ready for the auditors January 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>.

There was nothing for correspondence.

There were no public comments.

Collins asked if there has been an issue with the billing software because at his shop they didn't receive a bill, just the disconnect notice. Vanessa said that not that she was aware of. It could just be with the post office. Scott Gald wanted to let the commission know that Darren Mott from the line crew has been helping the city plow.

A motion by Melby, second by Schaub to adjourn. All voting aye upon voice vote, motion carried without dissent at 5:01p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by:

Vanessa Mueller