

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RICHLAND CENTER
MUNICIPAL UTILITY COMMISSION
Thursday, March 14, 2024 4p.m., 450 S. Main Street
This Meeting was held in person and via WebEx Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Members present: Collins, Sawle, Nice, Schaub (via phone), Heiar (via WebEx) and Downs (4:21p.m.)

Members absent: Melby

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

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

Motion by Nice, second by Collins 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 Sawle to approve the Electric bills for March totaling \$762,492.27. Also acknowledges the balance for February, thus totaling \$790,824.08. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Collins, second by Nice to approve the Water bills for March totaling \$65,548.85. Also acknowledges the balance for February, this totaling \$131,979.02. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Schaub, second by Nice to approve the Sewer bills for March totaling \$125,594.97. Also acknowledges the balance for February, thus totaling \$234,338.41. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

For safety Scott Gald reported that we received the Diamond award for safety from APPA. Also the utility is completing CPR training.

The Richland Center Fire Department is seeking donations for the literature that goes into the classrooms. In the past we have donated \$110.00. Motion by Collins, second by Sawle to continue to donate \$110.00 to the Richland Center Fire Department. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

Andy Zimmer present the commission with the MSA Engineering Service Agreement for assistance with utility improvements related to the WIS DOT USH 14 East project. Motion by Schaub, second by Collins to approve the MSA Engineering Service Agreement for assistance with utility improvements related to the WIS DOT 14 East project. All voting aye on roll call, motion carried.

President Sawle would like to see the commission meetings be held at the Electric, Water, and Waste Water Treatment Plant. He feels it would be a great time for the commissioners to get a walk-through of the locations. Motion made by Collins, second by Downs to hold the commission meeting at the Electric, Water, and Waste Water Treatment Plant. The next meeting will be at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. All voting aye upon voice vote, motion carried.

Electric Superintendent Gald reported that the PCAC has still been an issue but the meter that caused the problem has been removed. We scored a Platinum for the RP3 award. The awards will be handed out at the conference next month in New Orleans which he will be attending. They have one tree left to trim with the Parks Department; they have done about 20 this season. On the 21st of February the Electric and office staff attended a solar seminar that was held in the council room. They have been boring by Simpson Tractor doing some underground work and adding 3 underground services next week. Darren attended a Foremen Roundtable in Mauston. Scott has been meeting with Jason regarding Panorama. It will add 90 meters. There is a new house on 1st Street and a new Duplex going up as well. Scott and Vanessa have been working with Jeff Stanek from Waupun, to stream line information for the commission meetings. For the next meeting Scott will be traveling back from the conference in New Orleans, so he will not be here.

Water Superintendent Krueger reported that Terry is studying for his Groundwater Exam and getting ready to test for his CDL. The preconstruction meeting is next Tuesday. There was a letter that went out to our customers to notify them of the public information meeting. Staff has been working on meter changes and Steve has been working on lead service lateral reporting. They will be in La Crosse March 26th -29th for the Rural Water Expo. Soon they will be working on the last 25 unknown service laterals with the vac trailer. They will also start digging up and replacing the known lead service laterals. Staff will start valve exercising next week. The auditors discovered that there was a rate class customer that had sales higher than expected. The customer has internal plumbing issues that is causing meter turbulence.

Wastewater Superintendent Fischer reported that February 16th we started receiving waste from Fairfield Egg Specialties out of Muscoda. They haul 3 to 4 loads on Monday and Friday to the old plant. They have sampled every load and all is good. Brad, Darrick and Todd attended CPR training and actually found it quite interactive. The tank truck is 8 years old and has sprung some leaks that are repairable. At the preconstruction meeting there needs to be discussion about the upcoming parades in the area of construction. The grant that was awarded for the hospital utility expansion is for 2.5 million but after assessing the area as to what is actually needed the utility cost is closer to 5 million. The utility portion may be done in phases.

The superintendents voiced concerns about lack of communication from city officials regarding the grant that was just awarded. The city knew for a week and the department heads learned about it from the local paper and the news on the radio.

There was no public comments

There was nothing for correspondence

Scott Gald mentioned that the MEUW Annual Conference is May 15th -17th in Marshfield. Sawle wanted to thank Scott and Vanessa for the great job at diffusing the billing issue. Downs asked if he could get a tour after the meeting next month. Todd said he can also come earlier in the day if he would like.

A motion by Collins, second by Downs to adjourn. All voting aye upon voice vote, motion carried without dissent at 5:04 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes Submitted by:

Vanessa Mueller