

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RICHLAND CENTER

MUNICIPAL UTILITY COMMISSION

Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 5:30p.m.,

Council Room, Municipal Building, 450 S Main St, Richland Center WI 53581

This Meeting was held in person and via Teams

Members present: Sawle, Jones, Collins, Wallace, Coppernoll, and Downs

Members absent: Walters

Others present: Gald, Fischer, Krueger, and Edwards

President Sawle called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m. The meeting had been properly posted.

Motion by Jones, second by Wallace to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed. Downs asked if the "Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic" be removed going forward. It was agreed. All voting aye upon voice vote, motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was received and filed.

Motion by Wallace, second by Sawle to approve the Electric Bills for February totaling \$763,556.53. Also acknowledges the balance for January, thus totaling \$855,212.96. All voting aye upon rollcall, motion carried.

Motion by Collins, second by Jones to approve the Water Bills for February totaling \$62,204.45. Also acknowledges the balance for January, thus totaling \$116,812.84. All voting aye upon rollcall, motion carried.

Motion by Jones, second by Coppernoll to approve the Sewer Bills for February totaling \$125,038.20. Also acknowledges the balance for January, thus totaling \$217,815.68. All voting aye upon rollcall, motion carried.

For safety Gald reported we had an employee meeting and had Steve Ellers in for a brief refresher to report injury. Scott will be involved in hiring the replacement for Randy Larson.

Water Superintendent Krueger reported that Hydro Corp does commercial and industrial cross connection inspections. They will be inspecting our larger customers for the next 2 years. AMI meter changing is going well. 740 meters changed out. The wastewater is continuing to assist. There are more meters coming and we will continue to work on replacing meters until the end of March. Terry will be attending training at WPPI for the reports from AMI metering. We still only had one water main break for the season. Frost is down 3 feet. Andy will be here next week to meet regarding future projects for water utility. Wisconsin Surplus auction is set to start next Tuesday for majority of the items. Steve is waiting on the title for a trailer before it could be listed. DNR monitoring schedule for 2027 is 20 lead and copper samples just once. PFAS in all 3 wells in October. Steve also added that Scott, Todd and himself are going to schedule a meeting with Dale from Sextonville Waterworks. They just want to discuss plans if they continue to use us as a backup.

Wastewater Superintendent Fischer reported that he is involved with the meeting with Dale because he called for his guys to come and vac a trench for them. Evan and Brad went and reported that it was not a safe environment. They did not feel comfortable. The wastewater is looking at doing some trenchless technology repairs. Dr Moen's line is one that would be a good candidate. There are quite a few places in the lines that

roots grow in and crack the pipe. We had a vendor for Veric. They supply all of our gas equipment at the plant. They claim that on our natural gas line the meter is right out of the admin building for the entire site. The boiler is the biggest thing that uses natural gas. The rep says that we have good pressure but not enough volume of gas to light the pilot. So there might be a bad regulator somewhere. Here were a few other things this vendor pointed out that Todd did reach out to Ben from Town & Country to see what he knows. Todd is also going to reach out to WE Energies. Todd is working on some maintenance issues. There are no updates on the truck orders.

Utility Manager/Electric Superintendent Gald reported Rowen is at school this week for third year. Hunter is attending WPPI Outage Management System tomorrow. We held an employee meeting today. Scott was not sure what to cover. So went over our revenues and what the utility is worth. For the next meeting, we will meet at one of the shops. Both water and electric are working on replacing meters to AMI. There have not been any major issues. The electric has been working on tree trimming. The 3 phase by Richland County Bank has been hit. The police came and filled out a report. The owner says he will keep it clear for us now. There was an email regarding the building concerns where Bindl Tire is. There is a plan to make the repairs. Scott is worried about the liability if something would happen helping out Sextonville. They will come up with a MOU. We have finally converted over to the new server. The new printers have been installed. With the new printers we have cancelled the fax lines. There is a meeting about HWY 14 in March at the community center. And the last thing is with 15 employees we have 195 years of service.

There was a member of the public present to discuss Data Centers and effects to the area. Sara Hunt spoke about data centers and the resources that they use. She is concerned about the bill that was moving through the legislature, requiring the data centers to receive 70% of energy from renewables. Sara was wondering if there is any knowledge of data centers seeking out Richland County for a possible location. Scott Gald explained that our grid is not capable of what a data center would want.

Collins states that no news is good news. He loves the job everyone is doing. Coppernoll mentioned that Bob Spanye's property downtown has sold. There is a property just past Schmitt Woodland Hills that is sold and the new owner wants to put 4 duplexes on it. Coppernoll wants a meeting with the county regarding the campus property. Sawle wanted to thank the guys for how efficient the utility is running. Wallace, Jones and Downs agreed.

Motion by Collins, second by Downs to adjourn. All voting aye upon voice vote, motion carried without dissent at 6:12p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by:

Angie Edwards