

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RICHLAND CENTER
MUNICIPAL UTILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 5:30p.m.,

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

This Meeting was held in person and via Teams Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Members present: Nice, Heiar, Collins, Walters, and Sawle

Members absent: Downs and Coppernoll

Others present: Krueger, Edwards, Gald, and Fischer

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

Motion by Heiar, second by Sawle to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed. All voting aye upon voice vote, motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was received and filed.

Motion by Collins, second by Nice to approve the Electric Bills for May totaling \$720,822.94. Also acknowledges the balance for April, thus totaling \$863,686.49. All voting aye upon roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Heiar, second by Sawle to approve the Water bills for May totaling \$66,330.35. Also acknowledges the balance for April, thus totaling \$173,502.03. All voting aye upon roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Nice, second by Collins to approve the Sewer bills for May totaling \$133,470.36. Also acknowledges the balance for April, thus totaling \$183,824.36. All voting aye upon roll call, motion carried.

For safety Gald reported that Steve Eller was out in the field observing which we utilized for RP3. Randy Larson was in town. We had Boscobel, Wonewoc, New Lisbon, and Elroy along with our staff for training for a full day. Steve Krueger noted that it's just continually refreshing to have a presence of the safety guy. We had one through Rural Water, but he wasn't here on site. Commissioner Collins stated that it's obvious Gald to tell the difference between our utility workers on the street

Gald explained that he has talked with Scott on this topic. The Electric Department is looking to replace its 1999 walk behind trencher. We rented a skid steer from Simpsons for years. Scott did allow for a trencher in his budget for \$30,000.00. We started exploring what we need for a trencher. Toro makes a mini skid steer with the trencher on the front along with the bucket and forks. So going back in the backyards, taking

Transformers and things back there and if we need to take poles. It has a post hole digger on it or an auger. This is an absolute amazing little machine. The Toro is 47,645.02. Simpsons has a New Holland model they brought one out to the shop today. We tried it out along with the street crew who has some uses for this too. It's tippy and 800 lbs. heavier. The New Holland is \$7,200.00 cheaper than Toro. Gald stated that it is not always about cheapness. Although he is all about buying local, he feels the Toro is a better fit for the electric dept. needs. The Toro will be purchased from LF George, which is where the 1999 trencher was purchased from. Motion by Collins, second by Heiar to purchase the Toro model TX-1000 from LF George for \$47,645.02 for all other departments to use as needed. All voting aye upon roll call, motion carried.

Water Superintendent Krueger reported seasonal meters have all been installed in the parks and cemetery. We have not heard from Jody about filling the pool. Our back ordered AMI products have come in. We've got 600 heads you put in the field. As of today, staff have installed about 110 of them. They're getting a good routine down and with the help of some of Todd's crew it goes faster. Staff have done some valve exercising. We're going to try and dedicate three days a week to AMI changing to keep moving forward. Valve exercising for a couple days to break up their routine a little bit. They've got 30 pages on the list for this year they've done 5 1/2, so they're off to a good start. As we talked a little earlier that I had some work order issues with Caselle. I have a Webex tomorrow with the auditors and folks from Caselle. Last month, our service line reporting was corrected and cleaned up and resubmitted to the DNR. All the accountability that we had to do with the EPA has been done. Steve has been working on the consumer confidence report. He talked to Grant earlier this week, they must have done that before bills go out because we must have a public notification message on the bill. He will be verifying the lead sample sites. There needs to be 10 from the list that we've taken out of the ground over the years because we've been increased from 20 test sites to 40. So, I'm working on finding those last 10 and will be sampling within the next month. Terry spent about half the day at the end of the landfill with the backhoe. It was his first real experience with it. With Colt leaving, Terry really needs to get time in. Last thing I've got is the 8th St. punch list walkthrough was done a couple of weeks ago. G pro was out last week.

Wastewater Superintendent Fischer reported that the 2025 project contracts had a hic-up because the engineer put the wrong signatory on there. I know it was addressed at the council meeting last Tuesday, however when the mayor signed it, he also needed to have a signature attesting to his signature. So now Gpro has them and they've got them signed so now I have got to get them back. The other item is our permit that

expired June 30th from last year is now for public notice. It was posted for public notice on May 8th last week. The new permit would be exactly 1 year later and is supposed to be taking effect July 1st of this year. Some of the questions that Todd brought up last month, that he still has preliminary review of, are part of our membership of the Municipal Environmental Group. We've been a member of for 30 years. Their lawyer does not permit review for us, so Todd had them do the review early by looking at all the central changes. We're going to exceed every limit we have for April. That being monthly BOD monthly suspended solids, monthly prosperous and we're probably going to have 7 to 8 days exceedance on the ammonia. Therefore, then the weekly average for the ammonia we might end up with two weeks that exceed and that's all due to the one week attended trial of Schreibers. There is a valve now so there have more control of the waste they send to us. RCRC must test for E Coli once a week and we will be testing for them and billing them.

Utility Manager/ Electric Superintendent Gald reported it's exciting and Todd is always holding him back because when you run the numbers it's potentially \$1,000,000 of revenue. We're looking to reduce rates and we're talking about growth working together. Those things you must be attractive when we're trying to get developers. We can't have high wastewater, water, and electric rates. The audit, like Steve said he's still working with Brian. We had to file an extension. Our reports will be sent to the PSC. Scott, John, Jim, and himself will be at the MEUW Conference starting tomorrow morning. He appreciated Scott taking the time to come down to the board of directors meeting two weeks ago. He thinks it was educational. The power supply stuff is intriguing and it's a lot of change. Our government changes regulations with decommissioning coal plants and making renewables online. All those resources are in different spots and to get that power here transmission needs to be built. WPPI, a year ago the executive committee decided that they want to help communities. So, there were some more public funds that are built into our power bill that we pay monthly. They give back to the communities. So, we're partnering with tourism to have groups like The National Night Out to Thunder fast to different organizations in town just to kind of showcase what goes on in Richland Center. We're just going to cook a burger and hot dog, serve the food. Marty and that group of kind of show off what local folks do and what we have to offer. Jody and that group are going to be able to sign up for kids for the park and rec programs for the summer. Saturday we will be working in front of Rockwell. I met with the Co-op. I've talked a lot with this group of battle with territorial. The same conversation with Amy Martin and Kurt Brockway about areas where we touch the Co-op and how we can work together. As water and wastewater can grow so should the electric. The Frontier issues continue. Shockwave hit another primary and caused another outage. There have been way too many locates due to this project.

Scott feels that he would not have another underground project work during the winter months.

There was nothing for correspondence.

There were no public comments

Scott Sawle welcomed Melony Walters to the commission. Jim Heiar stated that he was looking forward to the MEUW Conference. Walters said she was excited to be here. She was wondering if she would receive the bills report ahead of time. Scott informed her she would.

Motion by Collins, second by Heiar to adjourn. All voting aye upon voice vote, motion carried without dissent at 6:35p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by:

Angie Edwards