

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RICHLAND CENTER
MUNICIPAL UTILITY COMMISSION

Wednesday, January 21, 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 Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Members present: Downs, Sawle, Jones, Collins, Wallace, Walters (via Teams) and Coppernoll (5:34)

Members absent: None

Others Present: Edwards, Gald, Fischer, and Krueger

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

Motion by Collins, second by Wallace 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 Wallace, second by Jones to approve the Electric Bills for January totaling \$678,410.05. Also acknowledges the balance for December, thus totaling \$809,500.31. All voting aye upon roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Jones, second by Sawle to approve the Water Bills for January totaling \$55,437.55. Also acknowledges the balance for December, thus totaling \$134,239.15. All voting aye upon roll call, motion carried.

Motion by Wallace, seconded by Coppernoll to approve the Sewer Bills for January totaling \$113,877.53. Also acknowledges the balance for December, thus totaling \$505,279.35. All voting aye upon roll call, motion carried.

For safety Krueger reported that they attended the Digger's Hotline Safety Breakfast earlier this week. It was at the Electric Shop for an annual refresher and all departments attended.

We received a letter from The Richland Hospital Foundation requesting a donation. The funds raised will be used for eye equipment, mental health, support and training for care givers and scholarships. A motion by Collins, second by Downs to donate \$1,000.00 to the Hospital Foundation with WPPI Community Funds. All but Sawle voted aye upon roll call. Sawle abstained, motion carried.

Water Superintendent Krueger reported that staff completed inventory and the annual well house maintenance. For 2025 they changed 235 meters to AMI. So far this year they have already done 42. A couple of the wastewater guys will be helping. Steve sent out the end of the year letters for lead services to customers mid-December. He did have some phone calls from landlords and requesting information on water testing. The ground temperatures did have frost coming out but the last couple days it is going the other way. Steve is a little concerned but there has only been one break for the season. Steve has created a procedure binder for water leaks and main breaks for his staff. Andy Zimmer from MSA is nearing completion for the plans for potential projects just for utility. Andy would like to meet to review the plans in the next couple of weeks before going out for bids. Steve will begin working on PSC reporting. Commissioner Jones took a tour with Steve to see the water utility department wells and reservoirs and problem areas for breaks. Couple weeks ago, Papa Murphy's Pizza called Steve because

they didn't have any water. The gas company has been doing some work along Hwy 14 and with the drill rig, cut the 1" pipe in half. The crew had already left but the foreman came back. NPL did help the next morning, and they were able to do the repairs. Steve explained the pipe freezing process for repairs of the main.

Wastewater Superintendent Fischer reported before the holidays Scott met with Todd and his staff to put together the spec requirements for a plow truck for the wastewater. We went out for bids and they were due back on January 6th. We received bids from Jones and Fillback on Chevy, Ford and Dodge, and the Dodge is the least expensive and meets the spec. The order for the Dodge was given and the truck should be here in April and then it will go to Monroe Truck Equipment for the safety lights and plow. Also, all last summer was spent with demos for a replacement for the jet/vac combo unit. Once all the bids were in, they reviewed and selected Super Products, it is distributed by a company called Rnow. The total purchase price without trade is \$582,000.00. The trade is \$85,000.00. We can take that or try to sell it out right. We are going to list items on Surplus so that can get listed too. The farm that rents our cropland is also interested in buying our truck. Todd is looking to also list the dump body trailer. It has never really been used. There are a few other items he will be listing. Junction View Dairy is still leasing cropland. There have been more acres added and they are paying monthly now.

Utility/Electric Superintendent Gald reported that inventory has been complete. Scott has completed workorders for the electric and working on the water side now. At the City Christmas Party Steve was recognized for 25 years of service and Jim Birch with 35 years of service. Angie received the Spark of Service award for the Utility. Electric has a little over 2,000 AMI meters installed. The take down for the Rotary Lights is complete. The class from SW Tech came and REC also helped. After it was all done they went to the line shop for lunch, then split up and half went and toured REC shop and the other half toured ours. The Riverdale Schools contacted Scott to attend career day. We put in a new server so now we share with the city. The office has ordered new printers and they should be installed in a couple of weeks. We also had a ham giveaway for the holidays, trying to gather updated information from customers. The voice shot is working great but we need updated information. Randy Larson, safety trainer for MEUW, is retiring May 29th. He will be here to teach his last class. Scott did receive an email from USDA, loan for the new WWTP, we need to refinance our loan through there and find a different lender. Scott will do more research.

There was nothing for correspondence

There were no public comments

Collins wanted to thank the superintendents and employees. It's awesome how great everything is running now. It's going to get really cold so please be careful and make sure your staff is too. Coppernoll mentioned the owner of Papa Murphy did not know there will be construction on HWY 14 over the summer. He feels that if he doesn't know how many other business owners are the same. Also Schrieber Food said that the DNR is possibly changing how much waste can be land spread. Coppernoll noted that he has not been contacted about data centers. There is a family that has interest in building a new building in town to house a business. They want to start as soon as possible. Sawle asked if Gald still wants to farm out the locates. Gald said he needs to research more before he makes any decisions. Jones congratulated Angie, Steve and Jim on their awards from the city. Be careful it is cold out. Downs also said to be careful.

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

Minutes submitted by:

Angie Edwards