

**Village of Rockland
Regular Meeting
August 10, 2021**

Board Members Present: President Jon Hohlfeld, Trustee Paul Langrehr, Trustee Ole Mathison, Trustee Bob Nielsen, Trustee Randy Rowell, Trustee Bob Rueckheim, Trustee Corey Wilson

Absent: None

Support Staff Present: Clerk/Treasurer Stephanie Rowell
Public Works Employee Isaac Bauer

Also Present: Kay Curtin & Dan Wundrow – Wisconsin Rural Water Association

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. with President Jon Hohlfeld presiding.

MINUTES: The 7/13/21 and 7/20/21 minutes were approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report was reviewed. Ole Mathison motioned and Corey Wilson seconded to approve the July report. Motion carried.

VOUCHERS: The vouchers were reviewed. Randy Rowell motioned and Ole Mathison seconded to approve payment of checks #12522 - #12537 and ACH payment for Verizon Wireless in the amount of \$8,004.94. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Ole Mathison motioned and Corey Wilson seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Rowell
Village Clerk

**Rockland Water & Sewer Utility
Board Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2021**

Board Members Present: President Jon Hohlfeld, Trustee Paul Langrehr, Trustee Ole Mathison, Trustee Bob Nielsen, Trustee Randy Rowell, Trustee Bob Rueckheim, Trustee Corey Wilson

Support Staff Present: Clerk/Treasurer Stephanie Rowell
Public Works Employee Isaac Bauer

Also Present: Kay Curtin & Dan Wundrow – Wisconsin Rural Water Association

Meeting called to order at 6:23 p.m. with President Jon Hohlfeld presiding.

MINUTES: The 7/13/2021 minutes were approved as submitted.

TREASURER’S REPORT: The July Treasurer’s Report was reviewed. Ole Mathison motioned and Randy Rowell seconded to approve the reports as submitted. Motion carried.

VOUCHERS: The vouchers were reviewed. Ole Mathison motioned and Bob Rueckheim seconded to approve payment of checks #4968 - #4982 in the amount of \$27,535.18. Motion carried.

WRWA: Kay Curtin and Dan Wundrow from WRWA were present to discuss their findings with the current situation of the WWTP and energy audit. There are current issues that need to be repaired/replaced due to non-maintenance practices previously. Dan was able to find some energy savings that will be beneficial with his energy audit. Well #1 needs a new pump, by replacing the pump this could be a savings of up to \$500 per year. Well #2 can be turned down to 47 hertz which could potentially save up to \$1,000 per year. As it is currently it costs the village \$7,916 a year to pump water, whereas with the above-mentioned changes it could save \$3,321 a year. Kay advised that the mixer in the sludge tank is not working and the sampler had not been working as well. She recommends that the muffin monster be removed and scum removal updated to a more efficient system. The village is planning to do the needed upgrades with the help of a grant that was recently awarded. The following is a summary from Kay Curtin after her visit to the WWTP on June 4, 2021:

Village of Rockland report
June 4 visit

On June 4, I visited the Village of Rockland Wastewater Treatment facility at the request of the town clerk and mayor from a previous phone call. I met with Isaac Bauer, the new operator.

1. The mixed liquor in the plant was showing a very old sludge age, or not wasting properly or in a timely fashion. It had a very dark color, and under microscopic observation, only showed colony stalked ciliates and no other protozoa, an indication of old sludge age. We were unable to use the sludge core depth finder (sludge judge), as the check valve on the one owned by the village was broken. I gave Isaac the order information for a new one, which is essential for control of the clarifier.
2. I brought my dissolved oxygen meter, which was the same model as the one at the WWTP, and showed Isaac how to use it. The meter that the Village owns was not properly calibrated, nor did it have the proper moisture content added for calibration. I had shown the previous operator how to do this, and to order membrane replacements for the meter. We did not find the membrane kit. I also could not find the calibration chart that I had sent to the previous operator. I had asked the previous operator to check each ditch every day for the dissolved oxygen level, which is critical to operation, but did not find these records. When we checked each ring of the ditch, the dissolved oxygen was very low. This is a problem, as the bacteria and protozoa require a minimum of 1.5 to 2.0 mg/L of oxygen in the inner ditch to survive. We measured less than 0.7 mg/L.

3. Isaac will need to do solids testing, or have another lab do the testing, so that he can control the plant. The problem with sending the samples to a commercial lab is the turnaround time for results. Isaac is looking into finding used equipment to do this testing in-house, which is my suggestion.
4. We spent much of the day trying to figure out the valve changes to waste sludge. I contacted the previous operator, for assistance, but he refused. We started wasting sludge, and I recommended that Isaac waste each day until the plant stabilizes. A good mg/L mixed liquor suspended solids to start with is around 3,000 mg/L, or a 10 day sludge age. I sent Isaac a spreadsheet that will help him calculate how much to waste for a preferred sludge age. This will take some time to optimize, since there were no records of process control that we were able to locate. Both myself, the Lacrosse DNR basin engineer and the field engineer supervisor from Madison had told Brandon to do process control in order to control plant operation, but we could not find record that this was being done.
5. The sludge storage tank mixer is not operational and needs to be repaired. Also, one of the valves out by the sludge storage tank was not operational.
6. The comminutor, (muffin monster) that grinds up the influent solids, is not operational. I would recommend grit and solids REMOVAL instead of just grinding and adding the debris to the plant. Grit will destroy pumps and builds up in the ditches, and solids will plug pumps and other equipment.
7. I recommended that Isaac number all valves according to the operation manual, in case another person would need to operate the plant in his absence. He is also planning on finding more information on the automation of the RAS/WAS pumps.
8. Since the sludge tank was fairly full, it may be necessary for Isaac to dispose of sludge before the fall landspreading window. I suggested calling the City of Lacrosse WWTP to ask if they could take it. The DNR would need to be contacted and some paperwork and testing completed before doing that. The Lacrosse DNR Engineer sent me the previous records of landspreading for Rockland, and it was stated that the sludge was incorporated. This has come into question. Biosolids must be injected or incorporated within 24 hours of being landspread.
9. Since Isaac will no longer be able to use the Elliot land, I suggested he start testing and applying for additional land on which to spread biosolids. The DNR or I can assist him with this, and with calculating the nitrogen and amount of biosolids per acre and other reports for the biosolids that are landspread in the fall.
10. The composite sampler peristaltic pump was not working due to cracked hose that goes down into the influent line. An extension also needed to be added into the carboy in the refrigerated compartment. We found more of that type of hose and I showed Isaac how to replace it. It is questionable that composite samples have been taken recently, but composite samples are required on the discharge permit for the WWTP.
11. Isaac will need to be registered to enter the DNR system, as all reports are now electronic. The Discharge Monitoring Report is due on the 21st of each month, and a Compliance Maintenance Annual Report is due at the end of June. The DNR and I can assist him with completing these.
12. I contacted Tim Stockman from Davy Engineering to ask for assistance in reviewing repair options and financial opportunities such as grants for updates and repairs to equipment. He will be contacting Isaac to set up a date to visit. I also gave Isaac contact information for our Energy Auditor at WRWA for a free audit and information on Focus on Energy grants.
13. I spoke with two of the Village Board members and Mayor during my visit. Since WRWA has out of state in-service training next week, and I am doing two days of training when I return, I am tied up until the end of the week of June 14. I will be back on the 18th of June if possible, but Isaac can call me anytime.
14. I suggest another employee be trained in all aspects of the WWTP operation in case Isaac is unable to be at work for any reason. I have confidence that he will be a very good employee, as he shows interest and knowledge in his work.

DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS: The delinquent utility accounts were reviewed. 10 day letters will be mailed this week.

SIGNS FOR ATV/UTV'S: The village received an invoice from La Crosse Co. Highway Dept. for the ATV/UTV signage in the amount of \$906.24. Donations were received to go towards the cost of the signs from the following businesses: Small Town Investments \$400, Mathison Rentals \$300, and Smoking Gun \$100.

ADJOURNMENT: Ole Mathison motioned and Randy Rowell seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Rowell
Village Clerk

