

A workshop meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the meeting room at the Richland Borough Building. The President being in the chair and the Secretary being present.

President Bricker called the Richland Borough workshop Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Bricker completed roll call, Present were President Kelly Bricker, President Pro Tem Larry Hartman, Councilmembers Matthew Johnson, James Niethammer, Robert Rittle, Richard Strickler, Secretary Rebecca Schnoke, Road Supervisor Dwight Belleman, and Road Laborer/Water Technician Benjamin Becker. Also in attendance was James Kinney from Becker Engineering. Absent was Vice President Mark Brubaker, and Mayor Owen Landes.

Old Business:

Water Rules, Rates, and Regulations – To be sent to Becker Engineering to be reviewed and finalized.

Park Update – Ribbon cutting on May 31, 2025, at 11:30 a.m.

Water Project Update – James Kinney from Becker Engineering provided the following updates.

Well No. 9

Approx. 440 feet until vault #1 is reached, if all goes well should be done by Friday.

Pipes are being tested by Kinsley, Becker will test upon completion.

Kinsley Construction has submitted their first Payment Request for review.

Elevated Water Storage Tank

Recapped bid results which came in about 1.2 million dollars over original cost estimates, and the driving factors for the increased project cost.

Becker Engineering has been in contact with bidders and manufacturers gathering bid feedback and information for consideration before moving forward.

Reviewed bidder feedback, maintenance information, and cost savings options.

Moving forward with current bids would increase the water rates by double digits, which is not what anyone wants.

Feasible Options available are to Rebid the project with the composite tank and include an alternate bid of the spheroid tank to solicit more bids, Rebid the project but amend project details based on cost savings feedback received from bidders.

One thing to consider is the timing and impact on the project, rebidding the project with the alternate bid would push the project back by at least six months.

Lengthy discussion occurred on bidding options, cost savings possibilities, and financing and revenue options. Becker Engineering will continue to collect more information and feedback, and clarification on bid options with the Borough Solicitor to find the best possible option forward for the Borough.

New Business:

Community Outreach Flyer – a request was received to include flyer with Q2 2025 water billing.

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A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve the inclusion of the Annual Richland Community Outreach Day Flyer in the second quarter 2025 water billing; motion unanimously carried.

ELCO “Wild About Books” Mobile – a request for the Book Mobile to visit Richland was received.

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Robert Rittle to approve the ELCO “Wild About Books” Mobile to park along Pine Street on July 16, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; motion unanimously carried.

Richland Borough Rate Schedule – further research and review required.

Road Supervisor Dwight Belleman brought concerns regarding the Borough’s zero turn mower to the attention of Council. The mower is losing power and there are metal shavings in the oil. Council requested Dwight Belleman and Benjamin Becker to get pricing for the next meeting.

Secretary Schnoke informed Council of a trash collection complaint received regarding property damage due to the trash truck not making the turn from Grape Alley into Strawberry Alley. Weidle is asking for alternative options to avoid this issue. Council recommends the driver takes the turn wider avoiding the property or back the truck up Strawberry Alley and utilize their trash pickers as spotters.

President Bricker asked if there were any comments for the good of the Borough. With no additional matters presented, a motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Richard Strickler, to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,
Richland Borough Secretary