A regular meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 7:00 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 Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Bricker completed roll call, Present were President Kelly Bricker, Councilmembers Matthew Johnson, Richard Strickler, Robert Rittle, Mayor Owen Landes, Solicitor Andrew George, 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, President Pro Tem Larry Hartman, and Councilmember James Niethammer.

The President asked for a motion to approve the previous months minutes. A motion was made by Richard Strickler, seconded by Matthew Johnson, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on May 13, 2025; motion unanimously carried.

The President asked for a motion to approve the previous months workshop minutes. A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by Matthew Johnson, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous workshop held on May 27, 2025; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker opened the floor for citizens’ and visitors’ comments. There was one (1) person present.

Michelle Voydik – 29 N. Race Street – Inquired about the large pothole on N. Park Street, Road Laborer/Water Technician Benjamin Becker advised it will be fixed tomorrow, Wednesday, June 11, 2025.

The following Committee reports were presented to Council: Water Report, Highway Report, Property Report, Finance Report, Safety Report, and Personnel Report.

Water Committee – Nothing to report.

Recreation Committee – President Bricker advised that Council needs to appoint a recreation committee, this action must be on the agenda, so it will be done at either the June workshop or July meeting.

Highway Committee – Nothing to report.

Property Committee – Nothing to report.

Personnel Committee – Nothing to report.

Finance Committee – Nothing to report.

Safety Committee – Nothing to report.

A motion was made by Richard Strickler, seconded by Matthew Johnson, to accept the Committee Reports. Motion unanimously carried.

The following reports were presented to the Council: Mayor Report, Road Supervisor Report, Office Report, Solicitor Report, Code Enforcement, and State Police Report.

Mayor Report – No questions about the report.

Road Supervisor’s Report – No questions about the report.

Water Report – No questions about the report.

Office Report – No questions about the report.

Engineer’s Report – No questions about the report. James Kineey of Becker Engineering provided the following updates for ongoing projects.

 Well No. 9 - Kinsley submitted the first pay application and has been reviewed by Becker Engineering. Directional drilling is complete all the way down the mountain to the location of Vault #1 at Woods Lane. They are installing the 36” ductile iron pipe, they have approximately 60 linear feet left to remaining to place, and they hydrostatically tested the directionally drilled section and no loss was observed.

 Elevated Water Storage Tank - PennVEST will not allow financing for more than 20 years based on their tier rating, Becker Engineering is recommending to re-bid the tank project and include an alternate spheroid design, verbiage in bid will allow Council to choose to award the bid to the lowest bid for the desired tank design not forced to award lowest bid overall with justification that money/cost will be the same or lower long term. If project is re-bid notice to proceed will be pushed back until spring 2026. Borough applied for another LSA grant, if project is re-bid, should know if the Borough is awarded any grant funding prior to project start.

 Park Project - advised there is a depressed area around the inlet in the park, which is being observed almost daily. Inlet has a filter bag that was clogged and water was backing up, which caused the ground to settle resulting in the depression. Becker Engineering will continue to monitor and Kinsley will come in to correct.

Solicitor’s Report –No questions about the report.

Code Enforcement Officer Report – No questions about the report.

Police Report – No questions about the report.

MRJA Report – Meeting was held June 2, 2025, electronic copies of the monthly reports are on file and available for viewing upon request, the next meeting will be held July 7, 2025.

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Richard Strickler, to accept the Officials Reports. Motion unanimously carried.

The Financial Reports for May 2025 were submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Schnoke. A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve the Financial Report, and have it placed on file for Audit. Motion unanimously carried.

The invoices were presented and reviewed by Councilmember Matthew Johnson. A motion was made by Richard Strickler, seconded by Robert Rittle, to pay all the invoices submitted; Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Richard Strickler, to ratify the bills paid; Motion unanimously carried.

The following communications were received:

* Weidle May 2025 Monthly Municipal Recycling Report 🡪 6.2 Tons
* 3 Zoning/Building Permit Application Received
* 2 Zoning/Building Permit Issued.
* Visit Lebanon Valley 🡪 Greetings letter received.
* Department of Transportation 🡪 June 2025 State Police fines received $256.71.

Old Business:

Well No. 9

 A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Robert Rittle to approve to authorize a PennVEST requisition in the amount of $100,000.00 for the Well No. 9 project; motion unanimously carried.

 A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Richard Strickler to approve to authorize and execute an LSA requisition in the amount of $300,985.00 for the Well No. 9 project; motion unanimously carried.

 A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve to authorize and execute Kinsley Construction LLC payment application No. 1 in the amount of $203,382.00 for the Well No. 9 project; motion unanimously carried.

Elevated Water Storage Tank

 A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Robert Rittle to approve to authorize a THUD requisition in the amount of $100,000.00 for the Elevated Water Storage Tank project; motion unanimously carried.

Playground Project

 President Bricker advised the ribbon cutting ceremony was a success and was a fantastic event, there were approximately 200 people in attendance. There were representatives from Congressman Meuser’s office, Senator Gebhard’s office and Representative Diamond’s Office in attendance. All the kids were laughing, smiling, and having a good time, and a personal thank you letter was received from the Moehlmann’s.

 President Bricker advised herself and Secretary Schnoke have been working to create use of facilities application and use of facilities agreement for the reservation and use of pavilion, pickleball courts, and cornhole boards. President Bricker provided a summary of the information and Solicitor George advised the agreement simply states abide by the rules and it contains a release that holds the Borough harmless.

 A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Richard Strickler to approve the use of facilities application; motion unanimously carried.

 A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve the use of facilities agreement; motion unanimously carried.

PUC Update - Solicitor Andrew George provided the following update for the ongoing PUC regulatory matter, the Borough filed a declaratory order petitioning the PUC that the 28 Millcreek customer not be regulated by the PUC, the PUC has not issued a decision on the petition, a letter of support from Millcreek Township has been requested to submit with the PUC petition; The PUC granted an extension until the end of July for the Lead Service Line Replacement Program that the PUC is stating must be completed for the Millcreek customers, Solicitor George, PUC regulatory council Ken Stark, Becker Engineering, and the Borough are working to prepare the Lead Service Line Replacement Program to be filed in the event no decision is made on the declaratory order prior to extension deadline.

New Leaf Truck – has arrived in Harrisburg ahead of schedule.

 A motion was made by Richard Strickler, seconded by Robert Rittle to authorize a DEP grant requisition in the amount of $200,000.00 for the new leaf truck; motion unanimously carried.

 Council discussed payment and financing options for the remaining $113,965.00 of the new leaf truck. Options included paying the full amount from General Reserve funds or financing through a municipal lease and applying for the 2026 round of the 902-recycling grant for the remaining balance. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Richard Strickler to finance the remaining $113,965,00 through a 48-month municipal lease at an interest rate of 5.41% with payments in arrears; motion unanimously carried.

Zero Turn Riding Mower – Matthew Johnson provided an update on the current Ferris zero turn mower and presented replacement options. Funds to purchase a new zero turn were budgeted for 2025 but was tabled in light of all expenses with current ongoing projects but needs to be revisited due to the mechanical issues with the current zero turn mower.

The current Ferris zero turn riding mower is three years old with 255 hours, warranty is expiring September 2025, lower bearing failing and causing metal shavings in oil, motor is under warranty, waiting to see if Ferris will replace the motor. Main concern is even if motor is replaced, will there be other issues and warranty is expiring in September. To purchase a bagging unit for the current mower would be approximately $3,800. If the motor is replaced under warranty Ferris could be sold on municibid to offset purchase cost of new mower.

 Council reviewed four quotes received for a new Wright ZXT with a 61” deck & bagger unit with 5 year/500 hour warranty; Kerry’s Power Equipment (Harrisburg) $18,388.00, Manor Equipment Inc. (Sinking Springs) $19,150.00, Ebling’s Service Plus (Myerstown) $18,208.00, and PowerPro Equipment (Lebanon) $17,550.00.

Council had lengthy discussion on this matter and weighed all options. A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve to purchase a new Wright ZXT with 61” deck & bagger unit from PowerPro Equipment not to exceed $17,800.00; motion unanimously carried.

New Business:

Push Mower – Council reviewed a quote received from Ebling’s Service Plus in the amount of $1,614.00 for a new Exmark Commercial 21 X-Series 21” push mower. Council discussed this quote and tabled this matter to allow time to consider other options and gather additional price quotes.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,

Richland Borough Secretary