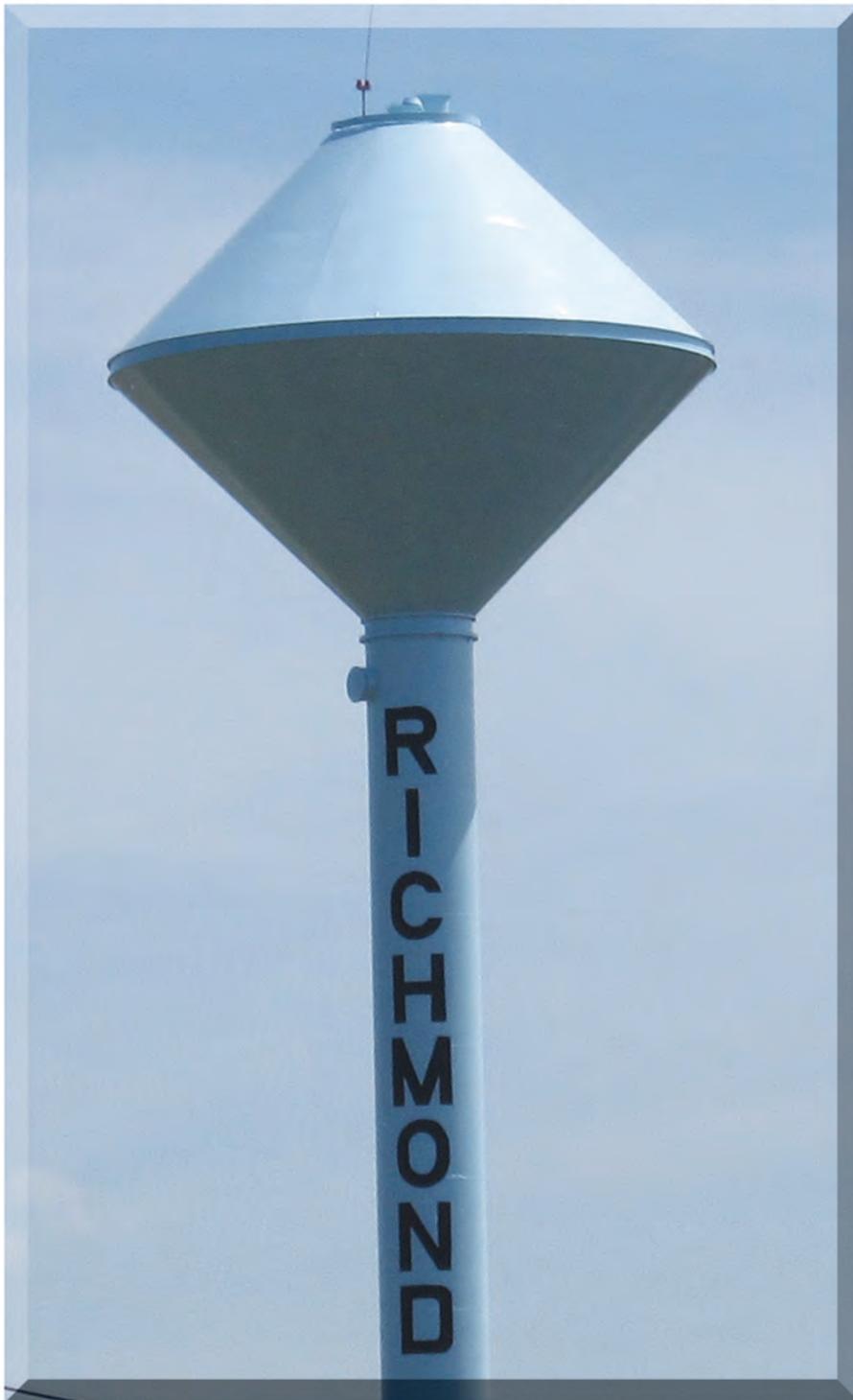


CITY OF RICHMOND MAKES WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS



The city of Richmond, Kan. is a community of 515 residents according to the 2010 Census; there are but 12 commercial businesses. Richmond is located in the southern portion of Franklin County, approximately 16 miles south of Ottawa, off of US Hwy 59.

In 2013, the governing body decided the city should invest in an improvement of the city's water system. The present system was installed in 1954 with ductile iron mains. The city had added additional pipelines, hydrants and valves since that original construction. City staff had also upgraded the water treatment facility as drinking water regulations evolved. Stretches of the original 4-inch ductile iron mains have been replaced with 6-inch PVC pipe. Hard water in ductile iron pipes has a tendency over time to deposit material along the inside of the pipe, causing the pipe to become encrusted and limit flow capabilities.

Most the residential water meters were no longer reading accurately. Numerous valves and hydrants had become inoperable; this caused problems with isolation capabilities for routine flushing and maintenance purposes.

“Although the city was inconvenienced during the the construction, it is great to have the new pipeline and automated metering system. But most of all, there is just no replacement for having valves that operate.”

– Scott Snow, Mayor, City of Richmond

The city was also experiencing what it considered to be a significant amount of water loss. The city averages 3,039,000 gallons of unaccounted water per year since 2008. That averages out to approximately 16 percent water loss. In the year of 2012 the city recorded seven water main breaks.

The city council decided that an improved water system would be more easily-maintained and water loss should be reduced.

New system

The city's water source is from the Richmond Lake. The city proposed improvements to install approximately 24,550 linear feet of 6-inch PVC pipe, replace 40 MJ gate valves and install 25 new fire hydrants. The city also wanted to replace the service meters with a new automated meter reading system.

The city was able to obtain a Kansas Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant of \$500,000. USDA Rural Development funded the balance of the project with a \$742,000 loan and \$606,000 grant. The total cost of the project was \$1,848,000.

Project installed in 2015

On February 24, 2015, J & N Utilities, Inc. of Blue Springs, Mo., was awarded the construction project for \$1,338,828.75. Work began May 19, 2015. For the most part it went smoothly, that is until the city couldn't shut off the old water system. All the residents were on the new 2015 system but when the city attempted to abandon the old 1954 lines, it was discovered the old 1954 lines were looped into the lines installed in 1987. This resulted in water to flow in many directions. After extensive excavations, the city capped in excess of 20 different lines throughout the project. Most of the old 1954 lines on the south side of the city were abandoned when the contractor capped off the lines west of City Hall. The north side of the city still had water service until finally the contractor discovered an old water main installed under Central (Main) Street. That line was installed in 1987 to improve fire protection. No services were on that line. The new system went into full service on April 29, 2016.

Doyle Sobba, Water Superintendent, commented, "The new water system will be awesome! No leaks; we know the locations of the waterlines and where the working valves are located. With the new PVC pipeline, the city

In 2012 water rates were \$6.50 per 1,000 or \$32.50 for 5,000 gallons. In 2013 the city increased the rate to \$8.00 per 1,000 gallons or \$40 per 5,000 gallons.

shouldn't have any colored or rusty water."

"Becoming accustomed to the new meter reading system has been an experience," says City Clerk Marla Gadelman. Training and software issues made it challenging to convert the old accounting system to the new software and downloading of meter readings for billing purposes.

In 2012 water rates were \$6.50 per 1,000 or \$32.50 for 5,000 gallons. In 2013 the city increased the rate to \$8.00 per 1,000 gallons or \$40 per 5,000 gallons. In 2014, the city adopted a resolution to increase the city's water rates by two percent on January 1 each year until 2018. BG Consultants, Lawrence, Kan. was the consultant for the project.

Rita has extensive municipal experience with the city of Troy, KS for eleven years. She was a certified EMT and served as the Ambulance Director for two years and supervised the volunteer staff. Rita also worked on or completed most water and wastewater utility reporting requirements. Her focus at KRWA is to provide assistance with applications for funding for cities and rural water districts.



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