

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
HYBRID MEETING MINUTES
October 5, 2021
7:00 P.M.
CHERRY VALLEY & ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT

- I. CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bergin @ 7:00 PM

The following were in attendance:

Kevin Bergin, Chairman 4 - Subscribers & LCAC
Arthur E.J. Levesque, Commissioner
Benjamin Morris, Superintendent
Robert H. Lemieux, Sr., Commissioner - late
Jennifer Wood, Treasurer
Cheryl Balkus, Clerk

- II. **District Member Forum** – There were no questions or comments from the listening, attending audience or from the commissioners. Commissioner Levesque motions to end the district member forum. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved. The district member forum ends in 2 minutes and 7 seconds.

III. **APPROVE MINUTES**

- A. **September 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes** – Commissioner Levesque motioned to approve the minutes of September 21, 2021, Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

IV. **FINANCE**

- A. **Approve September 28, 2021 Warrants** – Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the September 28, 2021 warrants. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.
- B. **Approve October 4, 2021 Warrants**- Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the October 4, 2021 warrants. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.
- C. **September Bank Transfer** – Commissioner Levesque motions to the transfer of sewer funds to water checking account to the sewer checking account in the amount of \$63,499.00. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

This is money is collected by the water district on behalf of the sewer – this is not water monies.

- V. **ADMINISTRATION** – Nothing to report

VI. Operations

A. Superintendent's Report –

The Grindstone project is out to bid. Excavation and piping should be completed by end of October.

The West St water towers gave an alarm due to no communications with the system. When not clearing out found the error caused problem with the interconnection and created some overflow with the standpipe. Due to the location of the towers, it is solar powered, and the four batteries had died. The batteries were checked eight months ago and tested fine. Scada was brought in to confirm that the batteries were the issue. These batteries are not your typical batteries and able to locate a local vendor in W. Boylston who had them at \$790.00 each with a municipal discount. Life expectancy of the batteries are about eleven years and the ones that were here were here for about that time. The entire project cost about \$3,200.00. The batteries in the Rochdale area about the same age and we will need to be changing these soon. Commissioner Lemieux recommends to research in upgrading the solar panels as they are coming to near end of life and with new technology may be something with a longer or better life expectancy. Commissioner Levesque asked if the batteries are always charged and if electrical power up here. Per the Superintendent the batteries are charged. There is no power here and why it is solar powered. To get power up here is about 300 feet away, he could get a price to bring power in if needed.

Hydrant flushing to begin next week.

Subscriber Buteau asked if required to get three bids for the excavation and piping. Per the Superintendent did his best he called five got bids from two and others nothing. The lowest was \$33,000.00 and highest \$83,000.00. Per Mr. Buteau with bid opening suggests with the next meeting to be in a proactive mode. When the bids come in have money for the project and the board might want to have a special district meeting. Given once the price comes in that the Superintendent have a draft warrant article for consideration at the October 19 meeting if additional monies are needed. The funding for this came out of two articles and when all bids come in our engineer could have in a warrant article form to save time in case they come in high and not within our budget. Commissioner Lemieux to clarify that the \$33,000.00 is for excavation and laying the pipe. Per the Superintendent confirmed and this does not include materials. Per the Superintendent the additional asphalt is about \$3,000.00, pipe and fittings \$7,000.00 and will be about \$12,000-13,000 in addition to the \$33,000. The \$33,000 was on the higher end and we are seeing a savings.

Subscriber Buteau inquired if there is an update to the grant that was applied for. Per the Superintendent he has a call in awaiting a call back. When we applied, we were told that the window was October – November.

VII. Communications –

A. Town Wide Study update

Per the Superintendent the third of four meetings were held last week. It was a review of financial rate structures, projection of what they will look like for next ten years and consolidation. Simplest way was to disperse the same in all areas

except the Valley and would see an increase in rates. The final meeting to be held in November and is to go over potential recommendations. The town received some grant money from the Feds and some discussion is to use some of this money to put towards paying down some debt and how it impacts the shared numbers amongst everyone else.

Per Subscriber Buteau to comment that Selectboard Phillips commented that he's looking for a silver bullet and per Weston & Sampson there is not one.

Per Chairman Bergin there is no consensus yet and not an easy decision.

Per Commissioner Lemieux to vent that he was very disappointed and angry about how the response to the woman who poured herself out at the meeting and felt it lacked compassion. The message is kind of clear and the town is taking the stance that they are doing this, but they do not have to. He knows that they are good people but feels that she deserves an apology. Seeing \$200,000 spent on strangers coming into town, information collected put into a power point presentation does not see the value of spending the money. We have good people running the districts, the town itself allowed this entity to be born, exist, evolve to what it is in their borders and did not do anything about. There is not going to be an easy answer and as per Senator Moore stated as a community Leicester this is your problem, it happened in your borders and you need to come together but the fact of the matter the people of the community are suffering, and the subscribers did not create this problem and we need to figure out a way. Per Commissioner Lemieux he does not believe we will receive any different answers out of the next meeting.

Per Chairman Bergin the lead from Weston & Sampson is from Rochdale and is a subscriber. If the consolidation is to happen that there is going to be some burden on other districts. Per Commissioner Lemieux the information that they received was collected from all districts and seems that it could have been collected and presented by all the districts. Our situation is obvious.

Per Chairman Bergin there is still the final recommendations to see what will come of it.

VIII. PERSONNEL – Nothing to report

IX. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A. Approval of Next Meeting - Commissioner Levesque motioned to hold the next Meeting as HYBRID and at the Town of Leicester Town Hall Tuesday, October 19, 2021 @ 7:00 PM. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

X. ADJOURNMENT- Commissioner Lemieux motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 P.M.