

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**

July 27, 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 P.M.

The following were in attendance:

Kevin Bergin, Chairman

No Subscribers
LCAC

Arthur E.J. Levesque, Commissioner

Benjamin Morris, Superintendent

Robert H. Lemieux, Sr., Commissioner

Jennifer Wood, Treasurer - Absent

Cheryl Balkus, Clerk

- II. **District Member Forum** – Commissioner Lemieux to touch base on the letters written by subscribers of the town wide solution. He is not prepared to vote on anything until he sees what is to be presented and to decide what is best for the district.

Per Chairman Bergin he has a summary of the Weston & Sampson Presentation as follows:

The Weston & Sampson presentation to the B.O.S., the joint Water/Sewer commissions, Sen. Moore, Rep. LeBoeuf on July 13,2021.

On the Water side

Weston & Sampson reviewed DEP guidelines on the maximum daily pumping demand for Leicester Water Supply

There was an overview of the pumping deficits at Leicester Water Supply/Hillcrest Water Supply, identification of efforts to increase pumping capacity and alternative water source study

Several options were identified, each with its own timeline/advantages/disadvantages. Moose Hill is not part of the LWS immediate supply alternative due to its timeline

- **Alternate water timeline ranges from 2 to 10-year duration, with cost ranging from \$4.7 million to \$16.8 million**
- **Moose hill timeline is proximately 10 to 20 years with an estimated \$30 million capital cost in 2021 dollars, not including land acquisition costs**

Then there was the order of magnitude with present worth comparisons (i.e. capital +20 year O&M estimates)

- LWS has an \$11.1 - \$20.8 million dollar cost without Moose Hill
- Moose Hill is approximately \$35.4 million*

* Costs do not include interest on loans, and assumes a 3% increase in costs per year, and w/o land acquisition costs

In the discussion portion of the meeting, it was noted by Weston & Sampson that even if you could magically start tomorrow with Moose Hill, Moose Hill cannot produce water cheaper than it can currently be bought at, from ORH (Worcester). At some point in the future, those #'s could change and make Moose Hill advantageous, which makes it something to look at long term.

(Getting back to the report)

Most advantageous to resolve the ongoing and urgent water supply needs for LWS is an inter-connection with the city of Worcester

- Continued well #5 replacement
- Bailey Street interconnection would supplement LWS water and provide a backup connection for the CVRWD

CVRWD challenges

- Cost of water from ORH (Worcester)
- Getting the well online
- o This is currently underway with an approximate cost of \$500,000.00

In summation on the Water side

- All three water systems have undersized water mains and aging water mains
- There is more than one solution
- additional supply is needed for immediate and long-term needs
- Diversifying supply for sustainability and resiliency
- Care for aging water mains

On the Sewer side

EPA has provided updated permit and standards for both Leicester Sewer and ORSD (Oxford Rochdale Sewer District)

The study also summarized the per day capacity and discharge limits

Leicester Sewer capital improvement ranges from \$11 million to \$15.8 million

ORSD capital improvements range from \$2.6 million to \$4.9 million

Overall, the sewer systems are in generally good shape

- I/I remain a challenge in some areas
- Nutrient (phosphorus) & metal limits will impact capital improvement cost

CVSD there is no feasible short-term alternative to sending discharge through the city of Worcester

- CVSD could consider as a long-term solution with a connection with ORSD (in the discussion portion of the mtg, W&S noted this could take 6-10 years to accomplish)
- Cost and capacity will be critical issues

There were some things stated by some of the meeting participants in the discussion portion of the meeting:

- CVRWD commissioners mismanaged Henshaw Pond for 20 years
- CVRWD spent millions on new treatment that was a bust
- And as a result, increased rates with ORH (Worcester) water

It is unclear to me what exactly what was mismanaged with the pond for 20 years. A drought was the reason the district activated the ORH interconnection. Then we were advised that until Henshaw Pond could meet current SWTR, it would remain offline

CVRWD has not spent millions on a new treatment process. We set up a pilot study to see if it would work, thereby allowing us to continue to utilize Henshaw Pond. The results of the study ultimately proved the TX technology would not work. The associated costs for this pilot were around \$300-500,000.

Our rates increased because of the ORH water line item. We have also worked to lower that # and rates have been reduced two times.

Commissioner Lemieux did not see anywhere in the meeting of what the City of Worcester actual capacity is. Per Chairman Bergin did not hear of anyone asking this question during the meeting.

Commissioner Lemieux inquired prior to the drought was the pond source good. Per Chairman Bergin working under DEP of a consent order to resolve the Trihalomethanes and tried to address with the MIEX program and it did not work. The issues have been labeled by a group of people that things are being mismanaged and Chairman Bergin does not understand what exactly the group is referencing to.

If not connected to the city the other source would have been a drastic more amount of money to put a treatment plant in place. If MIEX did work it would have raised rates significantly and we had implemented a 10-year rate study, but we did not spend, the rate payers to authorize 3.5 mill and we did not borrow 3.5 million and did not spend the 3.5. If we borrowed and spent and did not do anything then it would be fair to label being mismanaged. The only cost would have been to do the pilot study.

Per Commissioner Lemieux biggest problem of the subscribers saying the rates going up is the combination of the water sewer bill and there is a distinct issue with the sewer Dept. Providing two separate bills would be an added expense and this would be

considered a mismanagement. He is not in favor of splitting out the bills. Per Chairman Bergin it will cost the sewer side more money and Commissioner Lemieux it is not smart to do this.

The next Weston Sampson meeting is to make the recommendations and will be held the same as the July meeting as being public. Chairman Bergin stated that Subscriber Mr. Buteau commented in the prior meeting that if it is a 10K savings then does not seem to be adventitious to proceed. Per Chairman Bergin when we do see what is presented is to then present it to the rate payers to ask what you want us to do. No additional commentary. Commissioner Levesque motions to end the forum. Chairman Bergin seconds. The District Member Forum ended at 26 minutes 20 seconds

III. APPROVE MINUTES

- A. July 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes** – Commissioner Levesque motioned to approve the minutes of July 6, 2021, Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

IV. FINANCE

- A. Approve July 12, 2021 Warrants** – Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the July 12, 2021 warrants. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in Favor. Approved.
- B. Approve July 19, 2021 Warrants-** Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the July 19, 2021 warrants. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

The warrants consist of office expense, motor vehicle, pipes, technology, payroll, phones, labs, repair & maintenance and City of Worcester \$27,046.26.

For a total amount of \$40,661.46

- V. ADMINISTRATION** – Nothing to Report

VI. Operations

- A. Superintendent's Report** – Per the Superintendent they have been busy on general maintenance with water towers, rain has been a challenge and making do with it. Prepping valve exercising to begin mid of next month. Will see what may be plugged up or may need jackhammer and repair. This will complete the entire Rochdale system of 82 gate valves. Struggle will be opening the boxes but if bad of being plugged up we will try ourselves. Did reach out to Hydro Tech that has a vac unit that power washes out of a good cleaning and sucking out of debris. Can do on avg 45 gates per day. With them they bring the unit of items if repairs are needed. Sand and debris can come from top down, groundwater... these are in the ground sitting for decades that can corrode and break down. Old infrastructure maintaining. We will need to be cautious with these after experiencing a repair of an old valve from last year.

Grindstone email conversation of when to bid the project late Sept or Early October. Beneficial time to put out and will come in to play with the grant we applied for. Should be awarding the bid in November.

Environmental came in to remove uranium media and successfully removed it from the vessel. There is paperwork to follow the proper disposal new media will be purchased to install by our staff.

VII. Communications – Nothing to Update

VIII. PERSONNEL

A. Employee Update – Mr. LeBlanc passed last required license exam and courses and is eligible for the last increase request as per the agreement when he signed on. Commissioner Lemieux motions to the \$1.00 per hour rate increase. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in Favor. Approved.

IX. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A. Approval of Next Meeting - Commissioner Lemieux motioned to hold the next Meeting at the Town of Leicester Town Hall Tuesday, August 10, 2021 @ 7:00 PM. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

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

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