

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

July 6, 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

1 – Subscriber
LCAC

Arthur E.J. Levesque, Commissioner

Benjamin Morris, Superintendent

Robert H. Lemieux, Sr., Commissioner - Absent

Jennifer Wood, Treasurer - Absent

Cheryl Balkus, Clerk

- II. **District Member Forum** – Subscriber Greg Buteau 2 Merrick St to inquire of the online Moose Hill Commission meeting that was held with the state, DEP, Senators and so forth. He wanted to know when the meeting was and what was the Board's impressions as it was a big meeting based on the attendees. Per Chairman Bergin he has a report of the meeting that was held June 17th. The meeting was called by Mr. Shivick by his request through DEP.

Chairman Bergin provided a summary to the meeting as follows:

June 17, 2021 Zoom meeting with DEP

The attendees included myself (for CVRWD): Representatives from Mass DEP (Mary Jude Pigsley; Mariell Stone; Bob Bostwick): Spencer Water Department (Commissioner Steven Tyler; Chief operator Greg Karpowicz; Superintendent Bill Cundiff): representatives from Kleinfelder Engineering (the engineering firm for Moose Hill); a representative from Senator Warren's office: a representative from Congressman McGovern's office: a representative from Senator Markey's office: Senator Michael Moore: Representative David LeBoeuf: Leicester Town Administrator David Genereux: Leicester Town Planner Michelle Buck: and Moose Hill Water Commission, represented by Mike Shivick, who asked for this meeting to be called.

After roll call, the meeting began with the Spencer water commissioner (Mr. Taylor) making a notation that he read the IMA between the Town of Leicester and LWSD from 2003. It references the development of Shaw Pond, which was news to him. Despite what the document (the 2003 IMA) says, Leicester cannot develop Shaw Pond, as the Town of Spencer owns the land and rights to the water. It is not currently being used and Spencer has no immediate plans for its use. They will not relinquish its control and it is under their authority. He also stated that he had not seen this document before and did not know how it was drafted or came about as there was no input from the Town of Spencer.

After he spoke, I asked Mr. Shivick a question. I had seen the invite list to this meeting and there are questions about the IMA. Why wasn't a representative from the LWSD invited to participate in today's meeting? Mr. Shivick noted that in the past, LWS was unresponsive to request to attend meetings and when they do attend meetings, they were obstructionist, it was counterproductive and he decided not to invite representatives from LWS and thought with all the people that were invited today's meeting, we should be able to come up with a plan.

Mary Jude Pigsley stated that she was in agreement with me. There were quite a few people that have taken time out of their day for this meeting and if that there were key players missing that could add insight, this was not necessarily a productive use of time given the ambitious agenda. She then asked Mr. Shivick if there was going to be any new information provided, as it looked from his agenda to be the same information that was previously provided to him in writing from DEP in May 2021. There was not any new information. Mr. Shivick thought it would be good for everyone to hear the same information at the same time.

There was no other follow up comments or questions for the forum. Commissioner Levesque motions to end the District Member Forum. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved. The District Member Forum ended in 8 minutes and 49 seconds.

III. APPROVE MINUTES

- A. June 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes** – Commissioner Levesque motioned to approve the minutes of June 15, 2021, Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

IV. FINANCE

- A. Approve June 21, 2021 Warrants** – Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the June 21, 2021 warrants. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.
- B. Approve June 28, 2021 Warrants-** Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the June 28, 2021 warrants. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.
- C. Approve July 5, 2021 Warrants** - Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the July 5, 2021 warrants. Seconded by Chairman Bergin.

The summary of the warrants includes City of Worcester \$25,564.65, insurance, payroll, utilities, labs, motor vehicle, repair and maintenance, postage, retirement, technology. Total of warrants \$198,262.10

- D. Bank Transfer** – Commissioner Levesque motions to transfer \$57,640.19 from water collection account to the sewer account. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

V. ADMINISTRATION – Nothing to Report

VI. Operations

A. Superintendent's Report –

The R&R has been completed and submitted June 29. The starts the 6-month window for certification.

Lead & copper testing began. 40 samples to be collected & then tested.

Terminations up to date and we should not need to terminate anyone this month.

Grindstone well has been approved by DEP. The application for design has been approved. Minor items to be addressed such as testing ports. Nothing out of the ordinary. Emergency response plan need to be updated and ready for the activation inspection. In the original design did not believe was required and DEP changed. To speak with Tata & Howard to amend the contract and get completed by end of December.

Next step is to put it out to bid, the better bidding climate is better in the fall. Prices on raw materials are all over the place. Still waiting on the grant funding that was submitted and will know on this in the Fall

Need to remove media and measure levels. It was strongly advised not to move on our own. Best interest to have a company to come in to do. Should be \$7.60 per pound and transportation fee. We are close to 1,000 pounds and \$65 in labor that is all within the budget. The new media being put in will last up to 15-year life.

Last time we spoke was discussion of funding coming from the town regarding Covid relief and have not received an update yet. Went to advisement of Tata & Howard of possible projects. Sargent St and Redfield through Main to upgrade to a 12-inch. Prices have jumped from 2018 - 2019 was \$140,000.00 and now \$210,000.00 for the same amount of linear feet of pipe. We have updated pricing and prepared if we are to receive the Covid relief.

Commissioner Levesque inquired how deep is the well and can we dig another well. Per the Superintendent Morris it is approximately 350 feet, and the pump is submerged. There is a 6-inch line coming from the well to the treatment center. Finding another water source well field in the service area is another set of studies or an exploratory project and additional costs. Per Chairman Bergin, Example acquiring land, running transmission lines, costs will be in the millions.

Per Subscriber Mr. Buteau people forget and wanted to the Superintendent of the efforts of the risk assessments. RCAP did it for us and saved the district \$25,000.00 and it is important to remember the Superintendent persistence. With the American rescue plan the Town Administrator will be having a meeting with the districts. Deeply disappointed with the engineering firm with the delay of the well and suggests reminding with the delays we are losing at least \$10,000 per month. If these grants are tied into other grants and ask to revisit them.

VII. Communications –

The district received an email from Subscriber Frank Manu Frank Manu of 1 Pond Ct, Cherry Valley, MA 01611. I would like to know how Water and Sewer commissioners will be voting on the issue of town wide water solution for the town of Leicester. Any information on this will be much appreciated. Please forward this email to the Sewer District for information on the vote of Sewer Commissioners as well.

Per Chairman Bergin personally there is yet to be a town wide solution and the board has not changed their opinion. We have attended multiple meetings in the past and now. There are members from every water and sewer board that reports and Chairman Bergin reports back when he has attended a working group meeting. The 1st meeting has been held and there is an upcoming meeting July 13th. His position has not changed and looking for whatever avenues we can to lessen our rates and protect what we have. Our duties as Commissioners are the water district. No one knows what the next steps are and has been for looking for solutions.

An additional email from Subscriber Margaret Darling:

The subscribers would like a head count by individual commissioners on the water and sewer district boards.

We want to know what their vote is for the town wide solution.

Per Chairman Bergin from Mr. Manu's response. For water commissioners we have three. Chairman Bergin, Commissioner Levesque, and Commissioner Lemieux. He does not have the who's of the other commissions. Commissioner Levesque will wait and see. Per Chairman Bergin no one knows what it will be.

VIII. PERSONNEL – Nothing to report

IX. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A. Approval of Next Meeting - Commissioner Levesque motioned to hold the next Meeting at the Town of Leicester Town Hall Tuesday, July 27, 2021 @ 7:00 PM. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

X. ADJOURNMENT- Commissioner Levesque motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 P.M.