

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
August 24, 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	2 - 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** – Greg Buteau 2 Merrick St Cherry Valley. From the discussion of the last meeting of filter media and the arsenic asked if to be using new media. Per the Superintendent yes and Mr. Buteau asked if it would it be reused. Per the Superintendent if so it would have to be sent out to be regenerated and takes longer waiting for replacement. It may be better to use new media. Undetermined currently. Looking to see what longest bed life is in need and savings long term. Mr. Buteau suggests with the other districts on many wells and suggests having a discussion with what they do regenerate and encourage a discussion. He is not coming across as we should do this but what is their process. Per the Superintendent they use one vessel we use separate three vessels; one is for arsenic other two for uranium. Ours is changed in a 14–18-month window. Commissioner Levesque asked when recharging to reuse take all out and cleaned what happens. Per the Superintendent the system is offline, and he does not know how long currently that we need to look into. There were no further questions or comments from the audience or commissioners. Commissioner Levesque motions to suspend the District Member Forum. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved. The District Member Forum ended in 7 minutes 47 seconds.

III. APPROVE MINUTES

- A. **August 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes** – Commissioner Lemieux motioned to approve the minutes of August 10, 2021, Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in Favor. Approved.

IV. FINANCE

- A. **Approve August 16, 2021 Warrants** – Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the August 16, 2021 warrants. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

Commissioner Lemieux inquired about a few of the items on the warrant.

Twoomey Water amount \$1,110.00 – Per the Superintendent this the company that does required testing of backflow devices of certain properties. They bill us and we bill the customer.

Duggan Vehicle Equipment amount \$1,075.00 - Per the Superintendent this is for warning lights on equipment that was broken that needed to be replaced and additional lights were added to increase safety. Part of this also includes sign board.

Environmental Advisor Associates amount \$11,315.25 – Per the Superintendent this was for the disposal of the uranium media under the Grindstone Well Project that it is included in the budget proposal. The previous \$6,000.00 was the labor to put it together and this invoice was to remove it. The total price came in approximately \$300.00 less than expected.

- B. Approve August 23, 2021 Warrants-** Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the August 23, 2021 warrants. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in Favor. Approved.

The warrants consist of meters, electricity, technology, insurance, office expense, payroll, repairs and maintenance, accounting, consulting services, service agreement, City of Worcester \$26,044.11, bonds, lien fees, telephone. The total amount of both warrants \$97,021.53.

V. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Well Contract Amendment (ERP)** - Per the Superintendent this is from Tata & Howard to include the work associated with revising the update Emergency Response Plan (ERP) as required by MassDEP approval of the project and in accordance with AIWA. The additional cost is \$7,200.00. Tata & Howard will review the existing ERP to include new improvements to the Grindstone Well and booster system at the water treatment facility.

Commissioner Lemieux motions to accept the well amendment. Seconded by Chairman Bergin.

We did reach out to RCAP because they thought they may have been able to do it. However, because they are considering us to be part of the town population they are holding back on certain projects. When speaking with an RCAP director the response was we can't really do much for us now since we fall in the over 10,000 population. Per Chairman Bergin since no unification and no change what changed? Per the Superintendent unknown currently. He has been told it based on 01524 (Leicester zip code) and when he asked on another project, he was given the same answer. Per Chairman Bergin asks if the Superintendent can follow up as to why. In his own opinion this does not make any sense it is stupid, and Commissioner Lemieux agrees.

Per the Superintendent there is a time constraint involved and does not want to miss any deadline. Tata & Howard did the initial Emergency Response Plan, and we have a hard copy. The AWIA date is December 31st, and this contract would comply with this. All in Favor. Approved.

VI. Operations

A. Superintendent's Report –

The timeline has been received for the project. Tata & Howard schedule is to send it out to bid 9/22/21 through the central register. Bid opening October 13, 2021, November 10, 2021 award date and completion date of April 30, 2022. A lengthy conversation was held with Tata & Howard about doing this in the winter months. The area is a small area, not in the street and he will try to strongly encourage no work stoppage because of weather. Commissioner Lemieux suggests that the contract read needs to be done by a certain date instead of “encouraging” to work during inclement cold weather. Per the Superintendent feels that there should not be any issues. If we, do it ourselves could potentially take away from the expense of the project and not get someone to bid. We do not know what bidding climate we will attract. Per Commissioner Lemieux seems ridiculous and why can't we do the trench.

Per Subscriber Buteau, with a bigger contract only thing given discussion to take off the excavation separate from the mechanical in the building, risk factor in December is weather. The Superintendent to reach out to Paul at Tata & Howard to take this out and what the new bottom line price of the job to go out to bid. Commissioner Lemieux in agreement that not to keep extending the project out in losing the monthly savings. Chairman Bergin suggests asking if they could reverse the way of the project and the excavation to the end of the project where digging is to be done in the Spring. The Superintendent will follow up. FY23 is where we will start collecting flow data to determine the savings and a review of the water rates.

The 1ST round of Terminations has been done since a one and half years ago. There were approximately 12 accounts.

Per Subscriber Buteau Town Administrator mentioned during the Select Board meeting that he will be contact with all water/sewer districts to set up next Town Wide Solution meeting. He believes the next meeting might be held September 28th.

VII. Communications

A. LIHWAP (Low Income Household Water Assistance)

CVRWD and 1,800 other water wastewater utilities attended a Webinar Meeting that was held by the Offices of Community Services about LIHWAP (Low Income Household Water Assistance Program). The program is overseen by the Division of Energy Assistance and provides funds to assist low-income households with water and wastewater bills.

LIHWAP grants are available to States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, U.S. Territories, Federally and state-recognized Indian Tribes and tribal organizations.

Prior to COVID there was a five-year study being done because of the need of assistance for water and wastewater bills. Then with COVID Congress recognized the need for federal assistance for States to Secure Funding and appropriated \$638 million in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and an additional \$500 million in the American Rescue Plan.

The top priority benefits are for households for disconnected homes, those at risk of disconnection and the benefits will be paid directly to the utility.

There is the Grantee > States > Territories > Tribes
Money is determined by percentages and should be worked similar as the LIHEAP (Low Income Energy Assistance Program) or CCA (Community Action Agencies). All States awarded funds, then the State determines how the funding is spread out

When more information becomes available, we will make it a point to post on our website and include a notice in with the bill.

VIII. PERSONNEL – Nothing to report

IX. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

X. ADJOURNMENT- Commissioner Lemieux motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in Favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 P.M.

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