

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
HYBRID MEETING MINUTES
March 7, 2023
7:00 P.M.
CHERRY VALLEY & ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT**

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

The following were in attendance:

Kevin Bergin, Chairman	1 in person subscriber
Arthur E.J. Levesque, Commissioner – call in	1 online subscriber
Benjamin Morris, Superintendent	
Robert H. Lemieux, Sr., Commissioner – call in	
Jennifer Wood, Treasurer – call in	
Cheryl Balkus, Clerk	

II. District Member Forum – There were no questions or comments from the commissioners, the listening or attending audience. Commissioner Lemieux motions to suspend the district member forum. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved. The district member forum ended in one minute and forty-two seconds.

III. APPROVE MINUTES

A. February 21, 2023, Meeting Minutes - Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the February 21, 2023, meeting minutes. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

IV. FINANCE

A. Approve February 27, 2023, Warrants – Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the February 27, 2023, warrants. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

B. Approve March 6, 2023, Warrants- Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the March 6, 2023, warrants. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

Summary of warrants consisted of office expense, Grindstone well \$1,376.29, electricity, City of Worcester \$25,729.71, lab work, postage, insurance, motor vehicle expense, payroll, heat, field supplies, technology, repairs and maintenance for a total of \$60,871.82.

C. February bank transfer – Commissioner Levesque motions to transfer from the water checking account to the sewer checking account in the amount of \$49,269.19. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

This is a reminder that the water district has an agreement with the sewer district to collect the money on their behalf. This is not the water districts money.

D. Draft Budget – Per Superintendent Morris this is a continued draft of the budget, some information has been brought back from vendors and further review of other line items such as electricity, payroll. Working to determine a fair split regarding the electricity with the sewer district.

We are also in conversation with 38 Degrees North to purchase more credits to get a reduction towards the electric bill. Lab work had a slight change as we were able to get more pricing from them, there was an additional increase which increases the line item. City of Worcester changed from \$250,000.00 to \$245,000.00. Still running the same number for the well. Trying to run it longer and by doing so increases electricity usage at the same time using more out of the well is less to purchase water from the City of Worcester. Next time to present hope to have finalized to present to the board to approve. Commissioner Lemieux commented awaiting to review information he received from the Superintendent before responding. Commissioner Levesque is satisfied with what he has seen so far. Chairman Bergin just trying to

get enough data regarding electricity costs with the well online. Example when we went online with the City of Worcester, we did not know exactly what was going to be used and had been adjusted over the years with more data. There were no questions or comments from the online audience.

Subscriber Buteau asked to clarify the City of Worcester. He believes he heard that 2,000 per day. Per the Superintendent the customer is not up on full run of 10,000 per day. The other customer is not online yet and once bldg. is occupied, we will know what they will be using.

Per Mr. Buteau as for payroll the district is asking 4% to be competitive and do we know what the town is doing for cost of living? Per the Superintendent it's been 2% for 2 years and this is for a cost of living without looking at others where is 6 ½ %. He feels that it is balance to cover expenses.

As for electricity subscriber Buteau does not want to go into the formula because its time consuming and handed a handout to the Chairman and the Superintendent. He was under the impression that there was a split of the electricity with sewer. He did not realize that there was not a split that water had previously paid all electricity. Per the Superintendent there was a split with the sewer with the heat. Now that the heat has been converted to electricity, we are now trying to figure what portion each will pay. Per Mr. Buteau as for fairness then when it comes to payroll that insurance, superintendent contract, workman's comp that in the fairness should be paid by the sewer district. His calculations would be an estimated \$3,713.00.

Per Commissioner Lemieux commented about the payroll that the superintendent shared information how he developed. The purposed increase the for the operators and superintendent is in line with what research he has done himself.

V. ADMINISTRATION – 12-month payment plan approval – Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the 12-month payment plan. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

VI. OPERATIONS

A. Superintendent Report

The media lost on the vessel should be in in the next couple of weeks. Worcester usage is down since running the well, but overall district usage has increased from 2022 153,000 and in 2023 183,000 gallons per day. Going forward to compare each month to month.

The lead pipe program has had changed so that we do not have to temporary borrow. It will be grant will await more information to be released from DEP.

Met with RCAP working on the asset management plan. Trying to finalize and get full report to us in the very near future. Will be a useful tool with the inflation factor to show what it can cost to replace after its useful life. Will then try to wrap into a capital improvement plan with potential to fund future repairs.

Lead & copper to be done twice in 2023 and have all reporting in to the state by end of month and then begin again in July ending in October.

ASR (Annual Statistical Report) being wrapped up, hydrant flushing to begin mid-April. Town may be doing paving and we don't want to conflict with them. We may be working with them to do some repairs on these streets that will be paved that need water boxes replaced or repaired.

Subscriber Buteau commented shocked of the changes of usage in 2022 thru 2023.

Asked if there was an update of the grants applied for. Per the superintendent still waiting and to pursue for another grant for the Sargent St project.

VII. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Commissioner Levesque motions to hold the next meeting March 21, 2023, hybrid at the Town hall if available. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

A. ADJOURNMENT- Commissioner Levesque motions to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

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