

**CHERRY VALLEY & ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT
AND
CHERRY VALLEY SEWER DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES
MAY 7, 2018
10:00A.M.**

- I. CALL TO ORDER – CVRWD - The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bergin at 10:04 AM.
- II. CALL TO ORDER – CVSD - The meeting was called to order by Chairman Manseau at 10:04 AM.

The following were in attendance:

Kevin M. Bergin, Chairman

Michael L. DellaCava

Victor M. Taylor

Carla Davis, Recording Secretary

Tom Lennon, Customer

Arthur E.J. Levesque, Commissioner

Donald G. Manseau

Benjamin Morris, Superintendent

Greg Buteau, Customer

- III. RULE OF NECESSITY
 - A. Each CVRWD Commissioner declared a conflict and invoked a rule of necessity.
 - B. Each CVSD Commissioner declared a conflict and invoked a rule of necessity.

- IV. ADMINISTRATION

- a. **Participation by the Cherry Valley Sewer District and the Cherry Valley and Rochdale Water District in seeking technical assistance and planning grants from the Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration to explore resolving the water and sewer issues faced by the sewer districts and water districts in the Town of Leicester in a comprehensive manner.**

The Superintendent explained to both Boards that we have been in close contact with Congressman McGovern's Office and Senator Moore's Office. After some investigation, we received an email from Kathleen Palanowicz, Congressman McGovern's Council. She explained the possibility of receiving technical assistance and planning grants from the Dept. of Commerce – economic Development Administration to try to work out the water and sewer issues that Leicester is faced with. However, in order to be considered, it must be a joint effort by all water and sewer districts in the Town of Leicester and also included will be the Town itself. She would like to take the lead and facilitate meetings between all

districts, the Town, Senator Moore's Office, Congressman McGovern's Office and MassDEP to see if we can all come into agreement on how to proceed. All she needs from us is the Boards permission to proceed with moving forward, if this is the direction we would like to move toward. Commissioner Levesque asked how and why this came about? The Superintendent explained that this invitation stems from the Cherry Valley Sewer District's letter that was sent to local, state and federal politicians asking for assistance – more so because the Cherry Valley Sewer District is facing financial difficulties. Chairman Bergin stated that it doesn't hurt to take part, listen and explore. Again, McGovern's office will take the lead in facilitating the meetings. The previous meetings that were had with all water and sewer district did not end up favorable. However, this may be different because it will include technical assistance and possible grants to support it. The important part is to give any and all options a try to show we are trying and making an effort. Also, MassDEP was present as the last meeting with the Cherry Valley Sewer District had with the City of Worcester when they met. Mr. Lennon: Why are we even considering this when he remembers hearing that we are not even eligible for USDA loans? Correct – we used to be eligible for USDA funding as a district. However, now they have changed the rules and we no longer are eligible since we are now grouped in with the Town of Leicester as a whole. However, this is not a meeting about USDA Loans – no loans are being discussed. This is a possibility of receiving a planning GRANT not a loan. Mr. Lennon thinks we need to bring the USDA Loan eligibility to Congressman McGovern's attention to get it changed, if nothing comes out of these potential meetings. The difference from meeting before and meeting now, is that there is potential for assistance and money to help. That was offered until now. The Board needs to approve whether they are okay to allow McGovern's Office to coordinate a meeting with the above mentioned. Commissioner Levesque said that there needs to be an incentive (referred to a carrot dangling) that needs to come from McGovern's Office to the other districts and the town. The incentive is the technical assistance and the potential planning grant. Commissioner DellaCava motioned to proceed in participating in meetings, facilitated by Congressman McGovern's Office, to seek technical assistance and possible planning grants from the Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. Discussion: Mr. Buteau talked about the former WPI study and how there was no meat to it. The water and sewer districts have issues that are separate – the sewer district is in worse shape. Chairman Bergin commented that the WPI study was based on the town's recommendation to update the Moose Hill Reservoir study. Mr. Buteau stated that the Moose Hill study was done incorrectly and was low-balled, in his opinion. Since it was updated, it was proven to be far more expensive than what was originally thought. Chairman Bergin stated that these meetings may not be the pie in the sky but it is certainly worth his

time to find out. Commissioner DellaCava stated that if we didn't do anything to participate, we wouldn't be doing our job and would be looked at negatively. Commissioner Taylor stated that Moose Hill Reservoir was originally built for flood control and it was never intended for a drinking water reservoir. Also supposedly, 97% of drinking water is not from reservoirs – it is all from underground aquifers, not surface water like Moose Hill. There are multiple reservoirs not being used, why can't a plan be implemented to make something happen to perhaps sell the reservoir to Worcester, since he heard that Worcester is looking to buy a new reservoir. End of discussion. All in favor. Approved.

Commissioner Taylor motioned to proceed in participating in meetings, facilitated by Congressman McGovern's Office, to seek technical assistance and possible planning grants from the Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration. Seconded by Commissioner DellaCava. All in favor. Approved.

Commissioner Levesque asked about the timing and when we think the meeting will be? We don't know. We will wait to hear from Congressman McGovern's Office as to when the meetings will be held. Mr. Buteau asked about who attended the CVSD meeting at the City of Worcester. We informed him that the attendees from the Cherry Valley Sewer District were the Superintendent, the Treasurer and the Clerk.

- V. ADJOURNMENT – CVSD - Commissioner DellaCava motioned to adjourn the Cherry Valley Sewer District meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Taylor. All in Favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 10:46 A.M.

- VI. ADJOURNMENT – CVRWD – Commissioner DellaCava motioned to adjourn the Cherry Valley and Rochdale Water District meeting. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 10:46 A.M.