

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

**MEETING MINUTES
February 5, 2019
7:00P.M.**

- I.** CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Kevin M. Bergin at 7:00 PM. The following were in attendance:

Kevin M. Bergin, Chairman
Michael L. DellaCava, Commissioner
Cheryl Balkus, Clerk

Arthur E.J. Levesque, Commissioner
Benjamin Morris, Superintendent
24 Customers

- II. APPROVE MINUTES**

A. January 14, 2019 - Commissioner Levesque motioned to approve the Minutes of January 14, 2019. Seconded by Commissioner DellaCava. All in favor. Approved.

- III. FINANCE**

A. Approve January 21, 2019 Warrants - Commissioner DellaCava motioned to approve the January 21, 2019 warrants. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in Favor. Approved.

B. Approve January 28, 2019 Warrants - Commissioner DellaCava motioned to approve the January 28, 2019 warrants. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in Favor. Approved.

C. Approve February 4, 2019 Warrants - Commissioner DellaCava motioned to approve the February 4, 2019 warrants. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in Favor. Approved.

D. Approve January Bank Transfers: Commissioner Levesque motioned to approve the January 2019 bank transfer \$30,602.80 from the water collections to the sewer checking. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

Customer Buteau requests what the amount of the bill was from the City of Worcester and if a Treasurer report was available. Per Chairman Bergin this can be available for the next meeting. Another customer asked how money can be transferred from water to sewer. The customer was concerned if they are a sewer customer is their money going to pay the water. Chairman Bergin explained no, that there is a service agreement between the districts that the money is transferred.

E. Rate Study – Superintendent Morris indicated that a rate study is to be performed for the Sewer District and he asked the board if we should do a rate study for the Water District to save money. However, more flow data would be required since the meter has only been active since October. Commissioner Bergin commented because of the broken meter and without an update of a new meter, the plan was to have a year's worth of data for flow consumption and see historical records from our previous source to now receiving water from the City of Worcester. Chairman Bergin pointed out that the rate study would be premature at this time with the water data and not in favor without enough flow data from Worcester as we had from the previous Henshaw data. Commissioner DellaCava also agreed to wait until we have more data and table

the water district rate study for now. When the time comes we will perhaps be eligible for a discount of the water rate study. Commissioner DellaCava motioned to move the water rate study at another time when more data available. Seconded, by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

IV. ADMINISTRATION

A. Final revision to the Termination Policy & Payment Plan Policy

From the prior CVRWD meeting were revision drafts of the Payment Plan and Termination Policies. Chairman Bergin, Commissioner Levesque and Attorney Bachrach reviewed. Commissioner Levesque motioned to accept the revised Termination Policy for CVRWD accounts. Customer Christopher Reilly asked of what the revisions were of the prior policy to the new policy. Chairman Bergin clarified that the prior policy did not read certified check and that the new policy reads certified check. Commissioner DellaCava motioned to accept the revised Payment Plan Policy. Customer inquired to what are the changes. Per Chairman Bergin clarified the prior policy did not read certified check and the new policy reads certified check to be consistent with both of the policies. Customer Margaret Darling inquired what the fee is to terminate & reconnect water. Per the Superintendent the current fee to terminate is \$80.00 and the current fee to reconnect is \$80.00. These amounts are based on a rate study, a breakdown of the fees involved determines the fees that were set in 2012. Other customers commented with the struggles of already paying bills that this amount is excessive and inquired if the fee can be changed for termination of \$25.00 and reconnection of \$25.00. Per Chairman Bergin explained that rates are approved by the Board of Commissioners. A request would need to be made in writing to the Board of Commissioners who can then research what is involved. Chairman Bergin also wanted to add that the rates have been frozen for a couple of years based from the rate study. As we were transitioning with the change over from the reservoir to the City of Worcester and now that the district is up and running with hard data will give the district a better idea to do a new rate study with the recommendations to increase or decrease the rates. Commissioner Levesque mentioned moratorium is December 1st thru March 15th. A customer asked if the company who did the rate study receives the termination fee that is paid. Per Chairman Bergin the fees are paid to the District not the company who did the rate study. Customer Mysti Green interjected if the fee is immoral, ethical or illegal. Customer Margret Darling asked how many liens were placed on properties 2017 till current. Per Chairman Bergin stated we do not have answers to that now and if she would like this information it could be made in writing to the Board of Commissioners.

V. OPERATIONS

A. Superintendent's Report

- 1. System Improvements** – Per the Superintendent based off of the 2018 hydraulic study completed by Tata & Howard the Superintendent reached out to them on concrete costs on two projects. A water main extension that extends down Sargent Street to Main Street to create redundancy flow from the interconnection to the rest of the system is projected to cost \$140,000.00. A second project that would convert the clear well to a holding tank and would also boost pressure in the Henshaw Street vicinity to eliminate pressure drops when the pump is active. This is projected to cost \$355,000.00. Tata & Howard recommends doing this as one project to save on engineering and bid costs

making the project total \$495,000.00. Answering customer Buteau question to putting the well back on line, Tata & Howard recommends to wait and speak with the DEP to determine what they will require to put it back on line. Costs are currently undetermined due to the uncertainty of requirements. Only as a suggestion from customer Buteau is that Tata & Howard perhaps should proactively look into it he also commented that the cost is a lot of money and that he would like into his records of prior reports. The Superintendent explains all avenues need to be looked into and to look into what the costs will be to bring it back on line. This well was working fine before the District was ordered by the DEP to take it off line. Chairman Bergin and the Superintendent clarified to the customers what are the DEP requirements, that all would have to be brought up to the DEP standards, how much would it cost to meet these requirements and if these costs are less than receiving water from Worcester. Customer Mysti Green interjected if the customers would see these savings. Customer Bill Mattei commented that he resides in the Rochdale area and the water is undrinkable. The chlorine in the water is very strong and asked is there a need for this level. The Superintendent explained that the City of Worcester has this control, the injection is done prior to the Apricot Street interconnection. The District has 10 sampling stations that are used to monitor the chlorine levels. The flow area on Stafford Street near Mr. Mattei is pulled faster near his residence. Chlorine levels are higher at the beginning of the line and by the time it is dispersed out further it should be less. A customer asked if the city could be challenged of the amounts of chlorination. Chairman Bergin explained it is a complex process, it is within the limit and the DEP would like more chlorine added.

Sanitary Survey – Per the Superintendent the DEP comes out every 3 years for records inspections. The District is required to keep logs, check storage tanks, pumping stations & facilities inspection. With the timing of this service may result in a conversation with them as to their thoughts to have the well brought up on line. Customer Sue Anderson Pleasant Street asked why the District went off line. Per Chairman Bergin the District was mandated by the DEP and a unilateral order was given that the district could no longer use Henshaw Pond. The customer also asked if we were to bring the well on line are we going to be told if there are any issues ahead of time. Per Chairman Bergin to bring it back on line will require a re - permitting process and to determine we are able to draw off of it. It's registered at zero and we have to go by what the DEP wants us to do. The Superintendent also added the well process is much more complex study. Converting the clear well is to utilize water from Worcester and if it could put it on line it would help the Henshaw Street pressure issues. If an automated valve is put in place this would offset the pressures and then work off of the clear well. This would still need to be completed in order to put the well on line in the future and the district would continue to purchase water from Worcester. The Superintendent also gave further explanation that there would be a blended mix from Worcester & Rochdale. Cherry Valley would be fed from Worcester but would all be part of the entire study. Customer Buteau commented that a sanitary survey was done 2016 and the report arrived from the DEP February 2018. He also asked if the tanks have been cleaned. The Superintendent commented that both Cherry Valley tanks were cleaned and the Greenville tank is to be done in the next fiscal year.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Town of Leicester – Per the Superintendent a meeting was held at the Town Hall with the Selectman, Senator Moore's office, the Town Administrator. It was requested that a representative from each board form a working group as a town whole to get us a grant. Chairman Bergin said he has no problem being part of this. The study has to be done with every District involved in order to receive a grant. If a group backs out then we would not be eligible.

VII. PERSONNEL

A. Appointment of Clerk

Superintendent updated the Board on the recommendation from Attorney Barry Bachrach the Appointment of Clerk. Commissioner Levesque motioned to the Appointment of Clerk to Cheryl Balkus. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved

VIII. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- A. **Approval of Next Meeting** - A motion was made by Commissioner DellaCava Levesque to hold the next meeting on February 19, 2019 at 7:00 PM. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

IX. ADJOURNMENT - Commissioner DellaCava motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer."