

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

October 15, 2019

7:00 P.M.

CHERRY VALLEY & ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT

- I. CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by 7:04 P.M.
The following were in attendance:

Kevin Bergin, Chairman

Arthur E.J. Levesque, Commissioner

Robert H. Lemieux, Sr. Commissioner

Benjamin Morris, Superintendent

Cheryl Balkus, Clerk

Attorney Barry Bachrach

7 signed in Subscribers

- II. **District Member Forum** – Per Commissioner Lemieux there was a comment on Face Book from a person inquiring of the new resident who had been billed incorrectly. They had wanted to know when the reading of the meters take place and to ensure no one else bills are incorrect. Commissioner Lemieux said he commented that as a practice you should always check any of your bills. Per Superintendent Morris the readings are on a 28 to 32 days cycle and based on the previous read date. Every calendar year we go out 30 days, if there is a weekend or a holiday this will change amount of billing days. There is not a specific day of the month that meters are read. Commissioner Lemieux asked if the meter reading schedule could be posted on the CVRWD Website. Per Superintendent Morris it could be done. Per Chairman Bergin keep in mind that there could be a change in a date when meters are being read. There are two people who do the readings, if they are unavailable the meters won't be read on the day that was posted. Per Superintendent Morris the bills do read the from and to period on the bill, some of the subscribers who have new meters are read from a computer in the office that we have access to software. This is viewed everyday mostly for the purpose of customer leaks and we can notify the subscriber of record immediately. Per Commissioner Lemieux he is a huge advocate of the new meters because you as a subscriber can view your history. Per Chairman Bergin we did have the new meters proposed two years ago that was rejected by the voters. Per Superintendent Morris we do 100 meters per year, we currently have 255 subscribers who have them and there is no cost to have the upgrade. There were no further comments or questions during the 30-minute Forum. Commissioner Lemieux motioned to end this evenings District Member Forum early by 12 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in favor. Approved.
- III. APPROVE MINUTES
- A. **October 1, 2019** - Commissioner Levesque motioned to approve the minutes of October 1, 2019. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

IV. FINANCE

- A. Approve October 7, 2019 Warrants** – Commissioner Levesque asked who Standard Insurance Company is listed on the warrant. Per Superintendent Morris this is the district liability Insurance. Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the October 7, 2019 warrants. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.
- B. Approve October 14, 2019 Warrants** – Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the October 14, 2019 warrants. Seconded Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.
Chairman Bergin listed the warrants items and the amounts associated with the warrants. Grand total \$127,228.39
- C. Treasurer Report** – September Water Revenue was \$120,213.09. SBA & Solar Rental \$1,702.45, Reimbursements \$199.00 Total \$122,114.54. Operating Expenditures \$90,187.42. Loan Payments Approved Amount \$93,000.00 Paid Amount \$55,603.20 Balance \$37,396.80 (This only reflects FY20) West St. Tank Approved Amount \$34,000.00. Balance \$34,000.00 (Special Article Annual Meeting)
Aged Receivables Report. Per Chairman Bergin we are adding Aged Receivable owed to the district. The amounts are past due to the district for water charges only. As of 9/30/19 Zero thru 90 days past due amount is \$37,435.94, over 90 days past due is \$14,826.12 Total \$52,262.06.
Commissioner Levesque wanted to clarify if 90 days past due will the accounts have a lien attached. Per Superintendent Morris the service will be terminated. Per Commissioner Lemieux looking at the aged receivables if the report read 30-60 days and 60-90 days. Per Chairman Bergin there is a challenge that the software does not break it down to 30-60 days. Commissioner Lemieux asked if there are the same subscribers that fall into the status of terminations. Per Superintendent Morris there are repeat subscribers that will fall into this category.

V. Administration

- A. 9/27/19 Customer Request: Payment Plan Approval** Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the 12-month payment plan. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in favor. Approved.
- B. Application for License / Hawley Equipment** -Per Superintendent Morris this is an excavation company to do a service connection on Willow Hill Rd. Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the application for license for Hawley Equipment. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.
- C. 38 Degrees North**– Per Superintendent Morris several calls have been made with this company. We purchase net metering credits from them. It was identified that there are several credits and contacted them to find out when will we be benefitting from purchasing these credits. When we were set up with them is when the company was set up as a treatment facility. Per Attorney Bachrach, 38 Degrees estimate what your usage is based on the previous year. The decrease in usage occurred when the treatment facility was ordered to shut down. We told them that this was going to be happening and nothing changed. Currently we have a \$12,689.00 credit, we are in conversation with them about decreasing the amount of net metering credits. It will take approximately seven to eight years to use up the credit. 38 Degrees proposed that we terminate three of the programs that we are part of and only purchase the two and allow us to see the savings on

our bills. We let them know we could have a well put back online and we could contact them again to purchase more of these credits if need be. Attorney Bachrach suggests that the Board authorize to get approval to get a contract to review for approval and we also need to make sure that in the agreement that they check our usage every year because they were not doing this. If we are to put the well online, it could put us in that we are not buying enough. We need to work it out with them to apply early enough to get the additional net metering credits back because it is not an automatic process. Commissioner Lemieux motions to authorize District Council and staff to work out this issue with 38 Degrees to review a final contract. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

D. Zero Point – Per Attorney Bachrach Zero Point has come to us to lease property to get battery storage and encourages the Board of Commissioners to pursue. One problem is that this will increase their megawatt capacity. The current farm is 1 megawatt. There is a provision in the lease if the megawatts increase the rent increases and we need to make sure we get credit, potentially could be four times the amount and the bottom line there should be an increase in rent. There should not be signing of a standard lease because awaiting of what the regulations will be. They are trying to get us to sign up sooner to get government incentives and Attorney Bachrach suggests that we wait and draft a simple lease for a simple issue. Chairman Bergin to Attorney Bachrach do you think they can come back and say nothing will change it is only that they store more to get out of paying more. Attorney Bachrach does not believe so and would review the language more, we need to speak with someone from 38 Degrees with more technical background. Commissioner Lemieux suggests we use it as leverage to get the almost \$13,000.00 back from 38 Degrees and then we could consider moving faster along with their contract.

E. Special District Meeting Warrant Article – Superintendent Morris has copy of all 4 articles to present to the board, to discuss the date of the special meeting and proposing to have it November 19, 2019. Putting some of the articles on in November will be too premature since we don't have the approval of free cash. Article 2 is to discuss the forensic audit. It would be 65 days from it going out to bid this would be in February. Superintendent Morris suggests doing the first two articles. If article passes, then we must come back. Put the Grindstone Well on hold till the annual meeting leave the three other articles in case article 2 get denied.

Per Superintendent Morris the MPA (Micro Particulate Analysis) test results came back at low. Factors are that it was dry, low is good and the second round of testing is to be done in early April, to get it done as soon as possible and have the results available for the May Annual Meeting. The Grindstone Well should be pushed till the May Annual Meeting because awaiting the testing results. We do not want to pay ahead on something when we don't have the money. We need the test results first before we spend any money to ensure that the well will pass to go online. Subscriber Greg Buteau 2 Merrick St extremely disappointed said that without the Grindstone Well the District is losing \$10,000.00 per month since October 2016 or \$300,000.00 since 2016. During the last May Special District Meeting there was no one there technically to address the questions. If someone was there to explain it, it would have probably passed. The engineering firm is not being proactive and to put it on the warrant for November contingent that if it

passes can go forward. There is a new person at the DOR (Department of Revenue) who is very quick with getting information back. He said that the bottom line there is money being lost every month. Per Commissioner Lemieux the issue is the time constraints on the enabling acts, and we cannot do all of it. Chairman Bergin in favor of Article 1 - Change to Enabling Acts, Article 2 - Forensic Audit and Article 4 – Reserve Account. Commissioner Levesque motions to approve and move forward with Article 1, 2 & 4 Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in favor. Approved.

VI. Operations

A. Superintendent's Report – Per Superintendent Morris there have been no water breaks, the valve exercising program has been completed, the consumptions average daily use is 206,000 gallons per day, there are no major leak consumption issues, the MPA (Micro Particulate Analysis) results of round 1 are back with the next testing for the beginning of April and the Route 9 project is completed through our system. DOT (Department of Transportation) and Keating will clean out the water gate boxes.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

VIII. PERSONNEL

IX. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A. Approval of Next Meeting - Commissioner Lemieux motioned to hold the joint meeting Tuesday, October 29, 2019 @ 7:00 PM and the next water meeting for November 5, 2019 at the Leicester Town Hall. Commissioner Levesque motioned to approve. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

X. ADJOURNMENT- Commissioner Lemieux motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 P.M.

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