

# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

## MEETING MINUTES

November 5, 2019

7:00 P.M.

### CHERRY VALLEY & ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT

- I. CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by 7:00 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

Jennifer Wood, Treasurer

11 Subscribers

- II. **District Member Forum** – Subscriber Christopher Reilley 97 McCarthy Ave. commented that in the audit liens were identified that they went down and glad to see this. Subscriber John Shocik 7 Folsom St. regarding follow up to a previous inquiry of one of the Commissioners about the Working Group if the group meetings should be recorded or if minutes should be taken. He states it is not required to record or post minutes, that the Group is following the rules and they are not breaking open meeting law. The Town Administrator announced that the grant should be released in the next few weeks. Commissioner Lemieux asked Superintendent Morris about when there would be a meeting to have the attendance of the MassDEP. Per Superintendent Morris they have agreed to come and request that questions be given to them ahead of time to be prepared. He can then coordinate it with them to be at a meeting. Commissioner Lemieux asked the audience if they did have any questions to be given to the MassDEP. Subscriber Christopher Reilley 97 McCarthy Ave would like the question asked about getting Moose Hill online and about Henshaw Pond. Per Subscriber G. Buteau Moose Hill was not designed as a drinking water source it was designed as a flood control and not designed for a filtration system. There are many roadblocks to go thru, times frames, expenses and the updated study should be available online via the town website. Per Subscriber Reilley would like that MassDEP provide the broader strokes as to why these obstacles. Commissioner Lemieux would like to add the question about the Hydraulic Study. Per Superintendent Morris MassDEP requires that there is a plan in place to improve the system. Per Commissioner Lemieux understands that as time passes costs increase and wants it to come from them that everyone is informed. Subscriber Steve Pawloskis 595 Henshaw St. said that an alternative thinking is some people hold out hope for Moose Hill as Henshaw Pond is not suitable and if Henshaw Pond be opened up to public access, is there land to sell it off, or does it just sit there forever. Per Chairman Bergin this District still currently holds an inactive drinking water permit, we do not want to give it up because it is very difficult to get it back. The footprint does not allow for a conventional treatment plant. If there is some new technology with a different footprint perhaps, we can go back online if the Open Water Standards are met. Therefore, we do not want to give up the permit. Subscriber S. Pawloskis said the idea if a treatment plant could be done and did not know if that the amount of water would be enough to

supply the entire District and asked the Board who controls Moose Hill. Per Chairman Bergin was unaware. Per Subscriber G Buteau the Town Administrator did research, the deeds are in the Mass Water Resource Commission aka DCR, the town appropriated money for real estate and had DCR do the work. The town has some rights and the records are missing. Subscriber C. Reilley if we are not drinking the water in Henshaw Pond why not use it as another resource. Such as a bio solution to help clean it up and not invade. There were no further comments or questions. Chairman Bergin closes the forum.

### III. APPROVE MINUTES

**A. October 15, 2019** - Commissioner Lemieux motioned to approve the minutes of October 15, 2019. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

### IV. FINANCE

**A. Approve October 21, 2019 Warrants** – Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the October 21, 2019 warrants. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

**B. Approve October 28, 2019 Warrants** – Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the October 28, 2019 warrants. Seconded Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

**C. Approve November 4, 2019 Warrants** – Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the November 4, 2019 warrants. Seconded by Chairman Bergin  
Per Chairman Bergin list the categories of the warrants with a total amount of \$56,312.63

**D. October Bank Transfer** - Commissioner Levesque motions approve the transfer of \$54,491.09 from Water Collection Account to the Sewer Checking account. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor Approved.  
Subscriber Michael Hickey 184 Auburn St. requested an explanation of this. Per the Treasurer Jennifer Wood that this is money collected by water account and transferred to sewer.

### V. Administration

**A. Grant Writer Update** – Per Superintendent Morris some feedback was received from the grant research position. Commissioner Lemieux inquired if we have interviewed the applicants and Commissioner Levesque asks the Chairman if the process will be to develop a committee. Commissioner Lemieux said he would volunteer to be involved with the interview process. Superintendent Morris will contact Commissioner Lemieux to set up a day to do the interviews.

**B. 38 Degrees North** – Per Superintendent Morris at a prior meeting Attorney Bachrach reached out to 38 Degrees North, he received the termination of the three services to be cancelled and the paperwork is with us for the Chairman to review. If it all appears to be in order it would be required that Chairman Bergin sign on the three farms that are being cancelled. Commissioner Lemieux asked if in the future if these could be provided to the Chairman and Commissioners ahead of time to have a chance to review. Per Superintendent Morris they would have been however they came in late. Commissioner Levesque motions to terminate the three agreements Flint Rd Solar LLC, Sunset Solar LLC and Sunset B Solar LLC. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

## VI. Operations

**A. Superintendent's Report** – Per Superintendent Morris last week he received notice from Suez who were the low Bidders to clean the tanks and work started this week. The tank was drained, they chemically cleaned the internal part of the tank, applied epoxy, disinfected and began refilling. The outside of tank will be done after tank is filled. Once this is done the water will be sampled for volatile organic compounds to ensure there is no contamination form to be treated. It should be a two day turn around to get the tank operating to full capacity. We ensured that pressures are not affected and maintained while this work is being done. The October flows coming down to 197,000 gallons a day when 206,000 is historic usage, leak wise there are no concerns and system running well. Flushing complete, valve exercise done and updating records/drawings. Subscriber Steve Pawloskis 595 Henshaw St regarding the decrease of consumption. Per Chairman Bergin the water is not a profit, it appears that the District is using less consumption than prior history and is still the awaiting of better data. In the Spring we will do another analysis of the consumption and rates and see if there is more of a cost savings. Commissioner Lemieux also clarifies if the consumption goes down the City of Worcester bill goes down and there is no profit. Per Superintendent Morris we track what is metered, the Treasurer tracks billed revenue. There is some unaccounted unbilled water such as flushing, hydrant flushing, leaks, breaks this is figured in the budget. The City of Worcester does not have forgiveness for this. We have 100-year-old pipes and any break can be catastrophic. Per Subscriber G Buteau ballpark the District is trending 220,000 gallons per day and budgeted for more, we did not have a master meter and estimated on the high side. Now we have solid data for the last year as it is being master metered. Treasurer Wood provided information to the Department of Revenue (DOR) and awaiting for them to get back to us regarding free cash with the hopes that they will have back by the Special District Meeting.

## VII. COMMUNICATIONS

**A. Joint Water/Sewer Town Officials/Elected Officials Working Group Updates**  
Per Chairman Bergin a meeting was held 11/4/19. Senator Moore Representative Leboeuf, a Representative from Congressman McGovern's Office, all Water Sewer Commissioners from each of the Districts and the Town Administrator were present. The \$100,000 Federal Grant should be awarded in the next 2-3 weeks and the State Grant has been awarded. Once all money is received information is to be collected for the scope of the work. MassDEP to step in to include the correct language into the scope. RCAP has some thought for the scope of work, the next meeting has not been set up, there are talks with the City of Worcester progressing in trying to find a solution for Cherry Valley & Rochdale Water District (CVRWD), Cherry Valley Sewer District (CVSD) and the town as general. Cherry Valley & Rochdale Water District (CVRWD) is the only one purchasing from the City of Worcester, they are trying to work on the pass flow costs for Cherry Valley Sewer District (CVSD) thru the City and looking into at what legal options that the Sewer District need to get answers to avoid the Sewer District going under. The Working Group understands the urgency to do what can be done. The Route 9 project has helped with the I/I. Senator Moore thought if he can get some language in perhaps, he can get some funding to do an I/I study. Per Chairman

Bergin the meeting was productive, it's is in is a holding pattern until all the money is released. Subscriber Hickey asked what the difference of the scope and the scope of the programs will be and not have a duplication of efforts. Per Chairman Bergin there are not any small grants out there at this time and does not believe there will be no overlap. The outcome might be, as an example, if there is a merger of sewer districts that might come out of the study. Subscriber Hickey's belief is it will cost the taxpayers money and our rates are going to go up and not go down. Per Chairman Bergin all the groups will be coming with their wish list to for the scope of the study. Per Subscriber Reilley some grants require matching funds. It does not cost money to research and write grants. Hiring someone does cost money and can cost the District money but we need to do certain things to get help. Per Chairman Bergin the State and Federal Grants have not cost the CVRWD or the Town of Leicester anything. Once everything is brought to the committee a scope will be written for the study. Subscriber Buteau mystified why CVRWD Chairman would address CVSD. Per Chairman Bergin explains it was only for the purpose of explaining the reporting of what was discussed at the Working Group Meeting. Per Subscriber G. Buteau if Senator Moore is going to have a way to get grant money for I/I it should be identified for I/I work. Per Chairman Bergin the Sewer District pending demise has brought everyone to the table and everyone is consistently showing up and Commissioner Lemieux added for clarification the Scope is for the study and to also clarify that RCAP is doing an independent study of the Sewer District. Superintendent Morris adds that RCAP intent was to finish in July, it is taking longer than anticipated and at the last meeting with the RCAP Representative she was working on her report and thinks the independent study of the sewer side will be wrapped up soon.

#### **VIII. PERSONNEL**

#### **IX. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**A. Approval of Next Meeting** - Commissioner Levesque motioned to hold the next meeting Tuesday, December 17, 2019 @ 7:00 PM at the Leicester Town Hall  
Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**- Commissioner Lemieux motioned to adjourn the meeting.  
Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in Favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 P.M.

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