

# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

## MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2020

7:00 P.M.

### CHERRY VALLEY & ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT

#### I. CALL TO ORDER –

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bergin @ 7:00 P.M.

The following were in attendance:

Kevin Bergin, Chairman	5 - Subscribers
Arthur E.J. Levesque, Commissioner	
Robert H. Lemieux, Sr., Commissioner	
Benjamin Morris, Superintendent	
Jennifer Wood, Treasurer - Absent	
Cheryl Balkus, Clerk	

#### II. District Member Forum & DEP Q & A

Subscriber John Shocik 7 Folsum St had attended a forestry meeting and did not know if the Board has considered timber harvesting. There are harvesters that come in to cut down, harvest trees and pay the landowners for the trees that are harvested. His thought was to try to save the District some money. Per Superintendent Morris agreed that it is good water shed protection and a good project. Prior years Hull Forest Products contacted the District to do a 10-year project that would take out the dead wood and thin it out. The contact person that the District was working with stopped communications. Then with the drought hit, it fell thru. Per Chairman Bergin the concern at the time was to protect the watershed and the harvesting became a low priority. Per Superintendent Morris after 10 years with what the price of wood was the savings was approximately \$13,000. He can get the information from Mr. Shocik and further investigate.

Per Chairman Bergin & Commissioner Lemieux there was a prior request to have MassDEP attend a meeting for the Subscribers to have questions and answers. Mary Jude Pigsley Regional Director & Bob Bostwick, Section Chief are at the meeting to answer questions. Commissioner Lemieux apologizes to Mary & Bob as he thought there would have been more people in attendance. Prior meetings the attendance was very broad and now down to a handful. His goal was, what the MassDEP mandates are for the District near future and for the Subscribers to hear directly from the MassDEP because sometimes information will get lost in translation. Subscriber Stephen Pawlowskis 595 Henshaw St asks about bringing the Grindstone Well back online with a possible total yield from this is 15% and is this right we can draw 115,000 gallons of water per day. Per Superintendent Morris and Chairman Bergin the District utilizes and average 225,000 gallons per day. The Well would supply approximately half of this. Mr. Pawlowskis asked if there is any kind of guidelines or is it pointless to produce a small quantity. Are other Districts that have production wells that have a smaller yield and what does it cost for us to produce. Mr. Pawlowskis is concerned on meeting MassDEP regulations. Per Mary & Bob they do not have a

number immediately available but there are a variety of small water systems to treat a variety of contaminants. There are some towns that do not have another resource. They support the District in putting the well back online and they need to list what needs to be done. Mary explains that the latest to test for is (PFAS) Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, the chemical is associated with Teflon and firefighting foams. Per Superintendent Morris PFAS was tested in the 1st round in September and came back negative. We must do the Spring portion of testing which will be done end of April or May. Per Mary there is testing for arsenic and there is equipment in place for it. There are additional upgrades to be done to utilize the Grindstone Well. A cost benefit analysis should be done by the District to present to the Subscribers to determine if they want it to go back online. The testing guidelines for PFAS are 20 ppm. MassDEP is focused on 6 particulates they then look at the total. If found higher the MassDEP could enforce action by the public supplier. These are treatable with a carbon system or an ionic system at a reasonable cost. This is a proposed regulation and the direction that MassDEP is going. All public suppliers will be required to comply with the new rule and they're waiting for directions from the MassDEP Policy folks. This should be done sometime this year. Subscriber John Shocik asked if it is found in well water. Per MassDEP it can be found in both well and public water supplies. Subscriber Buteau asks to confirm that the 1st round of testing has been completed and passed and DEP has these results. Superintendent Morris confirms that the 1st round was completed, and the results were forwarded to MassDEP. Commissioner Lemieux asks if they would have a per gallon price of what all the DEP standards costs. Per DEP does not have this. Subscriber Pawlowskis concerned with bringing the well back online, that there is a new standard involved of a new contaminant and what it will cost the District. Per Commissioner Lemieux one of the items talked about it was Microscopic Particulate Analysis (MPA) testing. Without Henshaw Pond the well is under the influence of surface water treatment. Per Mary DEP recommends doing the testing to be sure because you don't want to have to go down that road after the fact and they are giving guidance. MassDEP is dealing with the critical need to measure for PFAS. Every 5 years MassDEP does an unregulated contaminate and there may be something in there that may require regulation and treatment. Per Mary all waters are not the same and how to treat can vary quite a bit. If PFAS is found and the level is not met, then next steps are taken. Testing is based on what is in the water, how long it is the system and what does it take to treat. There are several variables for all water suppliers. There is money that the Commonwealth is getting to help communities with the PFAS. Commissioner Lemieux asks why the water is different today than what it was 30 years ago. Why do we have to keep upping the standard? Per the DEP they are following the EPA guidelines. There have been studies done, what is in the drinking water, case studies and those standards are based on these studies with public health concerns. Per Commissioner Levesque that there are a lot of chemicals today than there were in the past and certain chemicals that cannot be removed. Per MassDEP they are only involved with public water systems that provide to 25 persons or more. Restaurants that have their own well would be required to be followed by MassDEP regulations. Commissioner Lemieux asks Mary & Bob for an update to the hydraulic study. Per Bob Bostwick it was recommendations after the change of the system once connected to Worcester. The last recommendation was to look at it and plan things out. MassDEP is not requiring or putting a timeline on the hydraulic study. They try do this with all water systems because a lot of them are aging and it's better to have an

overall plan such as tank replacement or put a new booster pump to increase pressure. If it were regulatory there would be a timeline. There is no requirement on the hydraulic study. Per Commissioner Lemieux there is a lot of rumor that it would need to be done. Per Mary DEP there is the possibility that if there was a catastrophic issue, the bar would need to be raised to get certain things done. Henshaw Pond needs treatment and it cannot come online until appropriate treatment. The water quality is not one of the highest qualities as it has challenging water to be treated and if a treatment system can be agreed on.

Chairman Bergin asked what the floor on pressure was. Per Mary it is 20 psi at the service connection. Chairman Bergin wanted to clarify with 20 psi not being met to the system, DEP would require the system to have something done to address the issue to meet the minimum 20 psi guideline and should not be below 20 psi during normal operations. Per Commissioner Lemieux, the questions being asked were not all his questions, some of these are from Subscribers. Subscriber Stephen Pawlowskis asked if DEP is part of the Working Group. Per Chairman Bergin & the MassDEP they are. The next Working Group meeting is scheduled in March, there are no updates since last meeting held in November other than the funding has been received for \$200,000 to do a study. Per Mary the next step is waiting for the scope and the Chairman also believes this will be the next step at the March meeting. He clarifies that MassDEP & CVRWD are invited guests, they have no control on how things are handled. Subscriber Pawlowskis expresses his disappointment of how long it is taking. Subscriber John Shocik asks DEP about a surface treatment facility and if it must be at the area or can they be all over. He said Worcester has one treatment facility and had heard that Worcester will require one for each open surface body of water. Per Mary a treatment facility does not have to be at the open surface area that there are towns that are not set up like this. Treatment for the Quabbin Reservoir is treated in Marlboro. Commissioner Levesque motions to close the District Member Forum. Commissioner Lemieux seconds. All in Favor. Approved.

### III. APPROVE MINUTES

- A. February 4, 2020** – Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the minutes of February 4, 2020. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

### IV. FINANCE

- A. Approve February 10, 2020 Warrants** – Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the February 10, 2020 warrants. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in Favor. Approved.
- B. Approve February 17, 2020** - Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the February 17, 2020 warrants. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

Per Chairman Bergin the warrant items consist of Field Supplies, Payroll, Technology, Consulting Fees, Repairs and Maintenance, Legal Fees, Heat, Telephone, City of Worcester, Subcontractor and Insurances for a total amount of \$51,694.00.

- C. Treasurer Report** – Per Superintendent Morris Water Revenue received for January is \$103,567.18 (revenue received from water usage), SAB Rental & Solar Rental \$19,702.45 (Cell Tower rental), Reimbursements \$28,854.55

(money received from Cherry Valley Sewer District (Salary, Telephone) Tax Reimbursement. Liens \$2,734.28, Miscellaneous \$1,557.43 (Drain Layers etc) Total: \$156,415,.89 FY20 Total: \$897,978,48.

Operating Expenditures: FY20 Budget \$1,264,440.81 January \$78,278.07

Balance as of January 2020 before reimbursements \$621,213.81 balance after reimbursements \$709,217.13

Aged Receivables: As if 1/1/2020 (reflects past due water charges only)

0-90 days past due: \$46,542.30 Over 90 days past due: \$13,792.15

Total: \$60,334.45

Subscriber Greg Buteau if the draft budget could be modified to show what has been spent to date for the next time. The Board and Superintendent said that they can make the request.

**V. ADMINISTRATION** - Nothing to report

**VI. Operations**

**A. Superintendent's Report** – Per Superintendent Morris there has been a lot of work done with RCAP Solutions that was done with them on the sewer side and will begin to transition to the water side. RCAP has an invitation for a training session for Commissioners and instructs the Board that if any of them are interested in attending to let him know to set it up. They spent the day Saturday, February 15 on Main Street with a water main break. He identified that the tank was not holding water, so he began hydrant to hydrant leak detection and found an area of concern. Prowler was brought in to pinpoint the leak at Main St and Auburn St. There could be two things a bad valve that feeds Auburn St and a leak on the line. RH White was brought in to excavate, all parts were not available to complete the repair that night and should be completed Wednesday. The leak is on the 8" main line that will require a shutdown of water to some of the residents on Auburn St and Main St.

All the meters that were promised from the vendor are in. Appointments will be scheduled for the rest of the year to complete 100. There is a metal storage container on the property that needs to be removed the entire bottom of it is rotted. Purchasing a new one would be \$7,000 or an option is rent to own. Maybe see if we could swing the price when we are closer to May to see where we are with what is left in the budget. Commissioner Lemieux asked how much removal is and if for a new one would a pad be poured to prevent rusting. Per Superintendent Morris there would be no cost to removal. We would cut it up and it would be scrapped and to minimize costs considering putting it up on 8x8 timbers. Commissioner Lemieux asked the Superintendent if he had any idea on the cost of the leak. Per Superintendent Morris ballpark at this time total would be about \$15,000.00. This could be on the high side but there are a lot of unknowns. There are more challenges with this one than typical breaks and trying to do their best in not touching the new asphaltting of Route 9.

**VII. COMMUNICATIONS** – Nothing to report

**VIII. PERSONNEL** – Nothing to report

**IX. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**A. Approval of Next Meeting** – To be held Tuesday, March 3, 2020 @ 7:00 PM at the Leicester Town Hall. Voted and approved at the 2/4/2020 meeting.

**A. EXECUTIVE SESSION** - To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel.

Commissioner Lemieux motions to go into Executive Session to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, namely the Superintendent. That there is no new business after the Executive Session and no reason to reconvene in public session. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

**ADJOURNMENT-** Commissioner Levesque motions to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:03pm.

Commissioner Levesque makes a second motion to end the regular session meeting. Seconded by Chairman Bergin, All in favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:03pm.

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