

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

June 3, 2020

7:00 P.M.

CHERRY VALLEY & ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT

I. CALL TO ORDER –

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

The following were in attendance:

Kevin Bergin, Chairman

1- Subscriber

Arthur E.J. Levesque, Commissioner

Robert H. Lemieux, Sr., Commissioner

Benjamin Morris, Superintendent

Jennifer Wood, Treasurer

Cheryl Balkus, Clerk

- II. District Member Forum –** Commissioner Levesque asked Superintendent Morris what the status is of the finances for upcoming projects that we have. Such as what is coming up at the Annual Meeting. Per Superintendent Morris both projects would be done from free cash and the \$50,000.00 Reserve Account. If all approved, it would bring us down to approximately \$96,000.00. Moving forward with uncertainty we do not know what the revenues will be coming up in the next months as the District is not seeing an effect. Money is there that it will be recertified again, there is some money from previous projects that was not used that will be put back and there could be an increase to the free cash. With the unknown we do not know if there will be a loss a revenue as result of people not paying their bills.
- Per Chairman Bergin, terminations are suspended till the new fiscal year and to be revisited after the beginning of the new fiscal year.
- Per Chairman Bergin to Commissioner Lemieux, when the rate analyst expert came in it was suggested that \$500,000.00 should be the floor of free cash and suggested not go below that. It is easy to go thru \$500,000.00 if there were to be a catastrophic break. The money we expecting to come back in from completed projects is to be added to the minimum floor but does not believe it will not be brought up to the \$500,000.00. It will need to be brought up to the voters at the Annual Meeting to decide and being at \$96,000.00 is not a good place to be.
- Commissioner Lemieux asked Superintendent Morris if there was an updated of the property that had a pipe break that filled the basement. Per Superintendent Morris Attorney Bachrach sent a letter with the estimated cost of usage. The customer contacted our attorney by leaving a message, they have been playing phone tag. But there is beginning of communications. Superintendent Morris to follow up with Attorney Bachrach tomorrow.

Per Subscriber Gregory Buteau commented that the District is getting out of losing \$100,000.00 per year if the Wells are not voted in and these are articles would need to be voted in at the Annual Meeting.

Subscriber Buteau asked the status at the changing the law regarding the Enabling Acts. Per Superintendent Morris the last conversation was with Representative Leboeuf who had turned in all the information. There are several different channels to go through that to be reviewed under House legal counsel, and how it will process forward. Unsure what will happen after being reviewed.

Per Subscriber Buteau, that there was an article in the paper about the City of Worcester to reduce their rates and would this apply to Towns that are connected. Per Superintendent Morris was aware of the article and left a message with his contact if it would apply towards the CVRWD. Per Subscriber Buteau, the article reads that the city used money that had been used into a reserve account, that it was money that was paid by everybody and they reduced their rate from \$3.67 per 100 cubic foot to \$3.39 per 100 cf. and the reason it was passed is because people were hurting so they took money out of their \$18 million reserve fund and reduced that rate for a one-year deal and included outside towns that water is being purchased from the City of Worcester. Subscriber Buteau, did not want to pursue any further since there was more follow up to be done on this. Per Chairman Bergin to Subscriber Buteau, he did see a couple weeks ago that inner city water rates were going to remain flat, that the sewer rates were going to increase and the outer user was going to stay the same. Per Subscriber Buteau said that the article he was referring to be a more recent article on page A4 of the Telegram. Chairman Bergin to pull the article and forward it to Superintendent Morris. There were no further questions or comments during the District Member Forum.

Commissioner Levesque motioned to suspend the District Member Forum.

Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

District Member Forum ended at 22 minutes 40 seconds.

III. APPROVE MINUTES

- A. May 19, 2020** – Commissioner Levesque motioned to approve the minutes of May 19, 2020. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in Favor. Approved.

IV. FINANCE

- A. Approve May 25, 2020 Warrants** – Commissioner Lemieux motioned to approve the May 25, 2020 warrants. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

- B. Approve June 1, 2020 Warrants** - Commissioner Levesque motioned to approve the June 1, 2020 warrants. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

Commissioner Levesque commented about the bill we received from the Town of Leicester for \$400.00 and did not know if Commissioner Lemieux would like clarification of what this is. Per Treasurer Wood, the town charges for every lien. This is billed to the customer and we are paid back. The check that has been issued is currently being held. Superintendent Morris is going to see if this fee can be waived or not.

The warrants consist of: Insurance, Salaries, Supplies, Motor Vehicle expenses, Subcontractors, Office Expense, Phone, Heat, Labs, Postage, Liens etc.. The total for the Warrants is \$145,123.00.

C. May Bank Transfer – Commissioner Levesque motioned to transfer from the water to sewer \$46,277.19. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

Per Chairman Bergin this is the money that the Water District collects on behalf of the Sewer District. This money does not belong to the Water District

V. ADMINISTRATION – Nothing to report

VI. Operations

A. Superintendent's Report – Per Superintendent Morris they were tied up with the repair on Auburn and Main Street. So far everything is done, operational, new pipe installed, pressure tested, repaved, backfilled to Mass DOT specs. We own it for the next 3 years until Mass DOT tells us otherwise. If there are any issues with it, we will go back to fix it. All invoices are not in for the police details and asphalt, but we are at \$39,000 without those items and we should be under budget. A significant area of the pipe was broken and found other problem areas further down on the pipe. There were small pinholes, the pipe was extremely old and in a brittle condition.

Superintendent Morris and the Leicester Superintendent were contacted by an Eagle Scout asking about an Eagle Scout program and having them paint the fire hydrants. He is working with Eagle Scout Eric Monteverdi who has a list of hydrants to take care of to get them painted. He was able to get paint on his own, and we did donate paintbrushes. The Superintendent wanted to make people aware if they see them painting this is the reason why.

The MPA test results came back low. This is very good and means that there is not surface water influencing the ground water in the well. No potential testing or treatment to be put in place to put the Well back online.

We are still not seeing a huge effect from Corona Virus Pandemic. Subscribers are paying, and revenues received could be lower if we were doing terminations. Currently we do not see a negative impact to the District but keeping our eyes on it.

The Annual Meeting will be set up with social distancing, we have purchased touch free hand sanitizing station for little money. The packets will be handed directly so not a lot of hands on papers.

Hydrant flushing for the Spring portion completed approximately 650,000 gallons of water to do this and hopes will improve water quality for the summer months. The District does not get a lot of calls for this.

The Consumers Confidence Report (CCR) link is on the bill and will be filed with the State to stay in compliance.

For the May water usage, we purchased about 6 million gallons of water and average 205,000 per day. Consumption is down on the average which is well below what we have anticipated in the past.

Prior meeting conversation we are purchasing to replace the steel rotted storage container. A refurbished is available at \$6,000.00 to be delivered and will try to purchase before the end of the year. We had to purchase new tires for our skid steer.

Subscriber Buteau wanted to know if Tata & Howard reconsidered their fee about the article on the Warrant about the Risk & Resilience. Per Superintendent Morris has a meeting with them tomorrow morning to see if there will be a reduction.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. 5-7-2020 Customer Request: 12-month Payment Plan Approval

Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the 12-month payment plan. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

VIII. PERSONNEL – Nothing to report

IX. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A. Approval of Next Meeting – Commissioner Lemieux motioned to hold the next Meeting Virtual or possible Town Hall Wednesday, June 23, 2020 @ 7:00 PM. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in favor. Approved.

ADJOURNMENT- Commissioner Lemieux motions to adjourn the Virtual Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in Favor. Approved. Virtual Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

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