

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

August 6, 2019

7:00 P.M.

CHERRY VALLEY & ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT

- I. CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Kevin M. Bergin at 7:12 P.M. The following were in attendance:

Kevin M. Bergin, Chairman	Cheryl Balkus, Clerk
Arthur E.J. Levesque, Commissioner	11 Subscribers
Robert H. Lemieux, Sr. Commissioner	
Benjamin Morris, Superintendent	

- II. **District Member Forum** – Customer Steve Pawloskis asks about the recent letter of the petition of the forensic audit and if we require a special meeting to solicit bids. Per Chairman Bergin there are no costs to solicit bids, but the reason of the letter is that a scope of what are we looking for. The letter went to the 103 petitioners, they are being asked to tell us what you want us to look for then we will get the language to Attorney Barry Bachrach to formalize. If we are going to have a Special District Meeting, we want to get the most out of it due to the associated cost of having Special District Meeting. One bill one vote, Grindstone Well, Sargent St etc... Once the language is given it will be put out to bid. For a Special District Meeting we were looking to have in September but per the DOR we cannot because free cash requires to be recertified. The meeting would need to be later in the year once the recertification is received. Customer Liz Provo 744 Pleasant asked if the District considered hiring a grant writer to pay off some bills or doing some projects. Per Chairman Bergin there is not currently as we do not have the monies in the budget. Customer Liz Provo suggests to perhaps think about putting this also on the table for the Special District Meeting. Per Superintendent Morris the engineering firm that we currently use does have the ability to look for funding to help with projects. Currently there is nothing available. The grant writing would most likely be put in the price of when a project is to be done by the engineering group. Commissioner Lemieux is asking the subscribers within our District that might be willing to volunteer in writing a grant for the District or perhaps can come forward, give any insight and this would be great. Customer Margaret Darling for clarification on the conversation that grant money would be for the Clearwell and Grindstone and to know if there is an urgency for this project. Per Superintendent Morris it will help the subscribers nearest to the booster station. When the station comes on the subscribers nearest to the station loose approximately 8 pounds of pressure. Additionally, utilizing the well the District will see the savings of not purchasing water from the City of Worcester. Customer Darling reports pressure problems are in her area, that are not related to the booster station. Per Superintendent Morris confirms it is not related to the booster station, it is related due to elevations. Customer Darling requesting a monthly report with the following information: Number of gallons of water purchased from the City of Worcester and the cost associated with that purchase and number of gallons billed to the subscriber's and

the total amount billed to the subscribers. Suggest that the report can be named Subscriber Report #1. Per Chairman Bergin does not see a problem providing information, there will be variations due to the City of Worcester billing cycles being erratic. Customer John Shocik 7 Folsom St had investigated about an EPA grant. They have money to funnel down to the state and then down from there. As of July 11th, the town is awaiting to hear of the distribution and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will only see approximately \$900,000 of this money for disadvantage communities. Mysti Green requesting an update of the working group and that there are people at her place of work that have ability in grant writing, she will investigate a resource. Per Chairman Bergin there has not been a working group meeting since several months ago. The next meeting is the August 27th. The \$100,000.00 that Senator Moore got is being awarded to the town for the study. Chairman Bergin does not know what strings are attached to this. This is the same for the \$100,000.00 being received from Congressman McGovern's office. The Town Administrator pursued the grants. The money comes available in September, a group is to be hired, and it will take at least 12 months to do the study and thanks her for looking for resources regarding a grant writer or input they can provide. Mysti Green comments that the District rates are ridiculous, there must be a bigger push than what the subscribers are being told. Commissioner Lemieux enforces that we have been told it will be at least a two to three-year process to just get ideas, that it's horrible, it needs to go up to the state house, to keep at them. This is a big challenge we are a small fish in a big pond, and we all need to work collectively as a group to make a difference. Customer John Shocik 7 Folsom St that the money being received from Senator Moore and Congressman McGovern's office is for the entire the town not just to the Cherry Valley & Rochdale Water District. The District has no control on how the monies are allocated. District Member Forum closed.

III. APPROVE MINUTES

A. July 23, 2019 - Commissioner Levesque motioned to approve the minutes of July 23, 2019. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

IV. FINANCE

A. Approve July 29, 2019 Warrants – Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the July 29, 2019 warrants. The warrant consists of postage, office expense, telephone, chemicals & payroll. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

B. Approve August 5, 2019 Warrants – Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the August 5, 2019 warrants. The warrant consists of Worcester Regional Retirement, chemicals, lab work, electricity, office expense, technology & payroll. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

C. May Bank Transfer – Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the May bank transfer \$43,194.79 from the Water Collection Account to the Sewer Checking Account. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

D. July Bank Transfer – Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the July bank transfer \$40,747.49 from the Water Collection Account to the Sewer Checking Account. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

Customer Gregory Buteau 2 Merrick St – for clarification purposes the Water District collects for the Sewer District it is then transferred to the Sewer District checking account. Chairman Bergin confirms.

V. Administration

- A.** Application for License / SPB Contracting Inc. - Commissioner Levesque motions to approve application for license for SPB Contracting Inc. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

VI. Operations

- A. Superintendent's Report** – Per Superintendent Morris a draft copy has been received of the unidirectional flushing. The goal is to begin September and go thru till October. It will be complicated by increasing flows or resulting of decrease of flows. There are 35 hydrants and 12 -15 gate valves will need to be isolated when doing this. The unidirectional flushing will begin in Cherry Valley then end in Rochdale. Notices will go out with the September 1, 2019 bills and will be posted on the web site. The last unidirectional flushing was done 4-5 years ago that was subcontracted out and took over a month to complete. This is not being done by subcontractors this time around and should take approximately the same amount of time to do. It will be done in three phases. Example valves 1- 80, then next year the next group etc... It should not disrupt, however there might be a chance of discoloration of water, if a subscriber experiences this they can run their water till it clears or if need be can do a hydrant flush.

1. System Update - Usage for July was 250,000-275,000 gallons per day, pleased with these numbers considering the hot weather. He has been working with the Route 9 paving contractor. We went out and brought boxes up to grade and the contractor is assisting with the work. Last Thursday, August 1 Commissioner Lemieux and Superintendent Morris met with Mass DEP regarding the Grindstone Well. They require that a MPA (Microscopic Particular Analysis) test of the well. This is to test if the well is under the influence of surface water as it sits near 100 feet from swamp and a reservoir. It's to our advantage to do this test, if there are any findings, we would need to come up with a way to address. There is the need to have two rounds of testing one in the fall and the spring. We would run the well for 2-3 weeks to remove stagnant water, company pulls the samples that are tested by a Vermont company. If results are high, treatment for well would have to change and potentially make the well no longer a cost-effective option. Commissioner Lemieux inquired if there would be a way to salvage the water used. Due to the high levels of arsenic, radon etc there is not. However good news regarding the cleaning of the Greenville tank is instead of letting 500,000 gallons of water be wasted and the potential of having pressure problems in the District, a robotic system will be used to clean the tanks. Per Superintendent Morris this will meet the sanitary guidelines and Mass DEP. A request for proposal was put out for the West St tanks. Six quotes were received, the low bid received was Suez just under \$34,000.00. We are coordinating with them to start in September. Customer Greg Buteau did Tata & Howard attend. Per Superintendent Morris, Paul Howard was in attendance. Per Superintendent Morris & Commissioner Lemieux if good results with the MPA tests and mirror what Worcester supplies us with the DEP will not have any issues. The 1 single main that feeds the District from the City of Worcester is being replaced by the City

of Worcester. They will be running a bypass line. Customer Buteau wanted to know when will auditing will be completed to get us free cash. Per Superintendent Morris should be end of September or October and free cash to be available late November or December. Per Commissioner Lemieux DEP came out with that they very open and willing to work with us. Customer Margaret Darling as a group and looking for rate relief perhaps it is too premature to know what the subscribers would see for lower rates if the well is to be put back online. Per Chairman Bergin we know that there will be savings as this will be much less water being purchased from the city, a rate study would need to be done to take into consideration the water that is not being purchased from Worcester and as a result there should be a reduction in the rates. Per Commissioner Lemieux adds the bill will not be cut in half but there will be some savings. Per Superintendent Morris water bills under \$100 in July 83% and 80% in August.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

VIII. PERSONNEL

IX. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A. Approval of Next Meeting - Commissioner Lemieux motioned to hold the next meeting Tuesday, September 3, 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 Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

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