

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

September 3, 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 (Absent)	Cheryl Balkus, Clerk
Arthur E.J. Levesque, Commissioner	18 in attendance
Robert H. Lemieux, Sr. Commissioner	
Benjamin Morris, Superintendent	
5 Leicester Middle School Civics Class	

- II. **District Member Forum** – Customer Paul Ravina 66 Charlton St Rochdale supported the budget was not entirely happy with the rate structure. His background is in data history. He requested when the next time rates are to be reviewed to review the data himself because he believes that he could come up with a better rate structure and that we can still hire the person we use. His main unhappiness is that the base charge does not include any water now and believes that this would be helpful. Mr. Ravina presented to the board what the water rates were 10 years ago. Commissioner Lemieux asked Mr. Ravina when he would require the data. Customer Ravina would like it at least three months prior to the rate study to review and collect the data and Mr. Ravina does not want any names attached to the data. Commissioner Lemieux instructed Mr. Ravina to send his request in writing. Customer Margaret Darling 17 Brown St. regarding follow up from the last meeting about the City of Worcester Bill and a total amount of customers monthly usage bill and if the report could be posted to the website and distributed at the meeting. Per Superintendent Morris we will need to create the report, the data against the City of Worcester bill will not exactly match because they read differently in the number of days than we do. Customer Darling inquiring if there was an update of the Working Group Meeting. Per Superintendent Morris a meeting was held however Chairman Bergin is not present tonight to give an update. Chairman Bergin would be able to provide an update at the next CVRWD meeting. Customer John Shocik 7 Folsom St. wanted to provide an update to the WIIN Act (Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act) He reached out to the Town Administrator Assistant who has been in contact with the people at the state house and still awaiting an answer. The WIIN Grant is EPA funded for water improvements it addresses, supports, and improves America's drinking water infrastructure. Included in the WIIN Act are three new drinking water grants that promote public health and the protection of the environment. Possible grants available to projects to disadvantage communities. Superintendent Morris did a follow up with Congressman McGovern's Office, his lead counsel and assistant was also to reach out to someone at the EPA. The EPA can allocate from what is available approximately \$960,0000 to the entire Commonwealth. Bottom line still waiting for answers. There were no further comments or questions during the 30-minute forum. Commissioner Lemieux motioned

to end the 30-minute forum seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in Favor.
Approved.

III. APPROVE MINUTES

A. August 6, 2019 - Commissioner Lemieux motioned to approve the minutes of July 23, 2019. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in favor. Approved.

IV. FINANCE

A. Approve August 12, 2019 Warrants –Commissioner Lemieux wanted clarification on the warrant for Spinelli and Tata & Howard. Per Superintendent Morris Spinelli is the auditing firm that the District uses, Tata & Howard is the firm used for the unidirectional program. Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the August 12, 2019 warrants. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in Favor. Approved.

B. Approve August 19, 2019 Warrants – Commissioner Lemieux wanted clarification on the warrant for 38 Degrees and Stiles Co. Per Superintendent Morris 38 Degrees is the solar company we purchase our electric from. They lease the property to the reservoir above, we pay them instead of National Grid, this District receives \$18,000.00 a year from them leasing. Stiles Co is the company we use to purchase our meters and pipes when replacing meters. City of Worcester Bill for the month was \$32,000.00. Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the August 19, 2019 warrants. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in Favor. Approved.

C. Approve August 26, 2019 Warrants – Commissioner Lemieux wanted clarification on the warrant for Continental Utility. Per Superintendent Morris the District uses this company for the billing software. Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the August 26, 2019 warrants. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in favor. Approved.

D. Approve September 2, 2019 Warrants – Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the September 2, 2019 warrants. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in favor. Approved. Customer Gregory Buteau inquired if payroll is also listed in the warrants. Per Superintendent Morris confirms that it is.

E. August Bank Transfer – Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the August bank transfer \$47,268.92 from the Water Collection Account to the Sewer Checking Account. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in favor. Approved.

V. Administration

A. Forever Mechanical – Contractor Approval – 100 Tobin Rd. Commissioner Levesque motions to approve application for license for Forever Mechanical. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in Favor. Approved.
Superintendent Morris asking the Board to consider changing from using copper to plastic PVC underground. As of now we only use the PVC when in an emergency. Cost wise it would be a savings to the homeowner since the price of copper pipe is much more expensive. The last time it was used it was \$6.00 per foot. If plastic pipe could be used going forward it would require to be changed in the rules & regulations. The Board of Commissioners requested that this be tabled till the next meeting. Requested that the Superintendent can get more data. Customer Ravina will the pipe be strong enough to withstand large trucks. Per the Superintendent it is rated for it

VI. Operations

A. Superintendent's Report –

B. System Update – Valve Exercising to be done in 3 zones – 1st zone had 78 valves and has been completed. Found one valve broken and two others that will require some work. Was not as bad as an experience as expected. Completed for this year. The Greenville Tank robot cleaning was done last week. There was a ½ inch sediment in the base of the tank. There was set up time, a day to clean and then inspection of the tank for any internal issues. Results should be available in approximately two weeks. Commissioner Lemieux asked about the robot itself if they are sanitized. Per the Superintendent confirmed that it is. Unidirectional flushing program to begin next week. Will cause some discolorations in waters and may experience some pressure issues. Will be a new experience since being connected to the City of Worcester. Superintendent Morris asks to be patient and the website will be updated. He met with the Director of Public Works about the potential of getting the in-city rate. The city would be interested in having the rights to the three or four dirt roads around the reservoirs. If the town is willing the city would be willing to offer in city rates. The town would be required to do the work on this and will require a sit down with the Town Administrator. The in-city rate savings to the District would be approximately \$32,000 a year and would require signing a new agreement. Superintendent Morris wanted to make it clear that this has nothing to do with the District, it has to do with the town and wanted to make the Board aware for the spring town meeting. Customer John Shocik added that the street names were not mentioned, and the city wants them for security reasons. His concern is not a lot a bang for the buck and what is in it for the Sewer District as they need the help here. Customer Margaret Darling thanked for anything that can be done.

Superintendent Morris there was increase in usage, which is typical for the summer, 79% of the water bills were under \$100.00 and there were no water quality complaints. Customer Gregory Buteau 2 Merrick Street would offer for consideration October 2018 till now we have had a recording meter. Bottom line October 2016 to October 2018 when it was not working, we negotiated with the city for much higher usage. Once a full year of data to speak with the city and can we get a refund. Per the Superintendent, the meter did work for a year and it was one year that the meter did not work, and the bills were estimated, and the Superintendent recalls that when it was being estimated that it was to our favor. Customer Margaret Darling wanted to have it added to the minutes that the reason bills are under the \$100.00 is that people are not living normal and sacrificing.

2. Zero Point – Per the Superintendent the solar farm reached out to expand and install a battery backup system to hold 1 megawatt of power with an accessed fee with payment to the District. Their funding will be available late Spring or Summer of next year. The option lease has been forwarded to legal counsel and reached out to our engineers to ensure there will not be any impact to the ground water or the well. If they ever pull out, they are responsible to fix the area.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. 8-22-19 Reilley – Per Commissioner Lemieux an email from a subscriber was received to help with grant writing and would give a substantial discount at a flat fee instead of an hourly rate. Commissioner Lemieux thanks this subscriber for this offering. Customer Mr. Ravina wrote a grant for the Board of Health and has some experience would be happy to be involved. Per Superintendent Morris will arrange a meeting with the subscriber who offered and Mr. Ravina.

VIII. PERSONNEL

IX. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

X. ADJOURNMENT- Commissioner Lemieux motioned to adjourn the meeting.
Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in Favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 P.M.

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