

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

December 1, 2020

CHERRY VALLEY & ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT

- I. CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bergin at 7:02 PM

The following were in attendance:

Kevin Bergin, Chairman

Arthur Paquette - LCAC

Arthur E.J. Levesque, Commissioner
Benjamin Morris, Superintendent
Robert H. Lemieux, Sr., Commissioner
Jennifer Wood, Treasurer
Cheryl Balkus, Clerk

- II. **District Member Forum** – There were no questions or comments during the District Member Forum. Commissioner Lemieux motions to suspend the District Member Forum. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in Favor. Approved. The District Member Forum ended 2 minutes 3 seconds
- III. APPROVE MINUTES
- A. **November 4, 2020** - Commissioner Levesque motioned to approve the minutes of November 4, 2020. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.
- IV. **FINANCE**
- A. **Approve November 9, 2020 Warrants** – Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the November 9, 2020 warrants. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.
- B. **Approve November 16, 2020 Warrants** – Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the November 16, 2020 Warrants. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.
- C. **Approve November 23, 2020 Warrants** - Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the November 23, 2020 Warrants. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in Favor. Approved.
- D. **Approve November 30, 2020 Warrants** - Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the November 30, 2020 Warrants. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

The warrants consist of technology, legal \$283.50, motor vehicle expense, repair & maintenance, City of Worcester \$25,655.04, lab work, postage, pipes, payroll, health insurance, electricity, trash, accounting fees, office expense, consulting fees, for a total of \$103,402.82.

V. Operations –

Per Superintendent Morris November has been uneventful.

Performed leak detections, winterizing of hydrants, maintenance.

Researching if we can remove the Media for the well or if needs to be done by an outside firm.

He has not heard about the 50% completion plan from Tata & Howard but has been told it is coming. A price is to be received from a local well company to report the condition of the pump in place.

RCAP Risk & Resilience project to be done in next month

An email was sent to the Commissioners regarding the Enabling Act change. Superintendent Morris wanted to know what the Commissioners had for comment. More work needs to be done of how to proceed. Commissioner Lemieux wanted to know if there is any idea how much in legal, what this is going to be to make the changes with the State. If there are challenges and if it must go to court, there will be added expenses.

Per Commissioner Lemieux it is opening us up for more liability down the road and what is the expense to push this forward. We do not want to create a situation that could be detrimental to the District. Per Superintendent Morris we do not know at this time if it may need to require a Special Meeting if there are several changes. If not, if there is slight tweaking could be just a meeting for the Commissioners to vote to the changes.

Commissioner Lemieux suggests we investigate how many of Subscribers /Business Owners we have that are not in the District. We need to know how many people are going to benefit from this. At \$10.00 per subscriber we may want to make the investment. However, if it is \$1,000 will not be a benefit. Expenses are important to the District and we do not want to create unnecessary expenses or open the District to legal issues down the road.

Chairman Bergin the way the wording was sent we would need to redefine if we were granted the authority. We would need to bring counsel back in to clarify. He suggests that this be a specific item with more clarification to be discussed at another meeting. Per Commissioner Lemieux commented about cost of future legislation if it is valid if this should be pursued, as to how much does the District wants to spend.

Per Superintendent Morris, income surveys completed were 342. A number of these were sent into the office and entered. Massachusetts Dept. of Housing and Community Development will need to through to ensure no duplicates and will then determine if the District qualifies for a small or large end project.

Per Subscriber Buteau kudos to the Superintendent to the investigation of the existing well pump before future operations. He is disappointed to hear that the 50% has not moved along and to do what he can to encourage Tata & Howard to get this.

Per Superintendent Morris he will not be available for meetings in the month of December and the 1st week of January.

The Commissioners are asking if they could receive by the next meeting a Tata & Howard update, where are we with legal expenses at this point regarding change of legislation. What the estimated range in expense is if this were to go to court what ballpark cost would it be as we may decide that it is too expensive. We do not want to be subject to being sued and Counsel should be able to give a pretty good estimate.

VI. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A. Approval of Next Meeting - Commissioner Levesque motioned to hold the next Virtual Meeting Tuesday, December 15, 2020 @ 7:00 PM. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

VII. ADJOURNMENT- Commissioner Levesque motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in Favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

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