

**CHERRY VALLEY SEWER DISTRICT
BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

**VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
November 12, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

- I. CALL TO ORDER Chairman Manseau called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M. with the following present:

Donald Manseau, Chairman	LCAC
Robert H. Lemieux, Sr. Commissioner	1 – Non-Subscriber
Michael DellaCava, Commissioner - Absent	1-Subscriber
Benjamin J. Morris, Superintendent	
Jennifer Wood, Treasurer	
Cheryl Balkus, Recording Secretary	

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. **October 8, 2020** – Commissioner Lemieux motioned to approve the minutes of October 8, 2020. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.

III. FINANCE

- A. **Approve the Warrant of October 15, 2020** – Commissioner Lemieux motioned to approve the warrant of October 15, 2020. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.
- B. **Approve the Warrant of November 5, 2020** - Commissioner Lemieux motioned to approve the warrant of November 5, 2020. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.
- C. **USDA UPDATE** – Per Superintendent Morris was waiting to hear from the local USDA Office of how to go about a re amortize of the loans. We need to pass legislation on the State side to give us authority to re amortize the federal loans. To move this along Representative Leboeuf has proposed some draft legislation. It is a long shot, is our only option on the table now and it is unfortunate we must do this for a federal loan and actively working on this. If it does happen, we could extend the current loan 10 years from the 30 to 40 years. This would be a short-term solution however extending it would add interest, will hurt in the long run and it would be double the amount of interest compared to the 10 years. Short term it would give some temporary relief. There are still a lot of moving parts, not a decision to be made at this meeting. This is a step, one of many of this option. USDA is still researching the deferral of payments.
Per Chairman Manseau looks like \$100,000.00 per year but would be more in the long run, but some relief in the meanwhile for the ratepayers.
Per the Superintendent if legislation able to change then there would need to be a Special Meeting to the changes and to re-amortize.
Per Treasurer Wood we would be better off to leave it as it is. Long term we will be adding \$750,000.00 to the loans.
Non-Subscriber Buteau asked if interest rate could be changed. USDA does not give a clear option to lower the interest rate. They state that the Agency options are limited, that they have internal guidance through staff instructions that was recently provided for proceeding with the situation facing CVSD. The Borrower must first

pursue the option of re-amortization. If the Borrower becomes delinquent even with the re-amortization, it is then the local USDA office can request approval from the DC office for an interest rate reduction.

Chairman Manseau suggests continuing this track to help. No vote required.

D. Unibank Financial Advisor – Per the Superintendent from a prior meeting this is being brought back to the table after giving the Commissioners time to review the information before deciding. The Superintendent reached out to the original Bond Counsel of the loan and he encouraged to have a Financial Advisor to assist with these loans. Per the Treasurer they were surprised that we did not have a Financial Advisor and to get one. An email was sent to the Commissioners answering questions from the bank and wanted to know what they wanted to do. Per Commissioner Lemieux he does not see any language within the contract itself. The email reads that there is not a fee but asking us to commit via the contract that we must pay them before they do any of the leg work before they can help us. He asked that they modify the contract to say they will do what they need to do without charging us. The contract does not show being modified and has a problem with this. The Treasurer and Superintendent has assured him that this is how business has been done in the past, however without the contract not being written to say this and only written in the email.

Commissioner Lemieux understands the merits and values of the potential to help us. However, the way the contract is laid out right now he is not comfortable with an email from an employee that says one thing and the contract reads otherwise. His suggestion is that the contract be given to Counsel to review and give us language to protect us before taking further action. Chairman Manseau is also in agreement.

IV. ADMINISTRATION – Nothing to Report

V. OPERATIONS –

A. Superintendent Report –

A lot of time has been spent on USDA information.

System wide working on more sewer manhole repairs and to try and get done on those before cold weather hits.

Sewer flows remaining constant with previous month average 53,000 gallons per day. We are keeping that average with the 6 inches of rain that has been received. I/I (Inflow and Infiltration) issues are being addressed and are helping.

A couple of sewer pumps will need to have some components replaced. There is an issue in the Towtaid area. Last week numerous issues in the neighborhood. Items such as cigarettes and baby wipes causing problems.

Commissioner Lemieux asked is there a way of filtering these materials that get into the system and telling the neighborhood to not introduce these types of items to the system.

Per the Superintendent in the past we placed house to house flyers and have not seen a change.

Commissioner Lemieux asks if we can access those in that area a fee. If we add the fees maybe, then the message will get across. It is not fair for the rest of the Subscribers to pay the costs for those who are compromising the system creating the added expenses.

Per the Superintendent we can start with another flyer to the sewer subscribers. Commissioner Lemieux suggests including in the flyer that one of the Commissioners is suggesting that the subscribers be charged for the unnecessary charges.

Per the Superintendent a grinder system was previously discussed in being installed, however this cost would be passed on to all the sewer subscribers. Commissioner Lemieux has a problem with this, that why should all the subscribers absorb the costs when one area is causing the issues.

VI. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A. Approval of Next Meeting Date – Commissioner Lemieux motioned to hold the next Virtual Joint Sewer & Water Meeting for the Annual Auditor Report December 1, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner Lemieux motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:46 P.M.

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