

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

**VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**May 13, 2020**

**7:00 P.M.**

- I. CALL TO ORDER Chairman Manseau called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM with the following present:

Jennifer Wood, Treasurer

Robert H. Lemieux, Sr. Commissioner  
Michael DellaCava, Commissioner  
Benjamin J. Morris, Superintendent  
Cheryl Balkus, Recording Secretary

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. **May 7, 2020** – Commissioner DellaCava motioned to approve the minutes of May 7, 2020. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.

III. FINANCE

- A. **Approve the Warrant of May 13, 2020** – Commissioner Lemieux motioned to approve the warrant of May 13, 2020. Seconded by Commissioner DellaCava. All in favor Approved.
- B. **Rates** – Per Superintendent Morris to the Board with increasing rates as of July 1, 2020 with the ongoing pandemic. Commissioner DellaCava recommended to freeze the rate because people are out of work and cannot afford. We do not know where we stand with the Governor and will know more details when the Governor makes announcement to begin Monday, May 18th. He knows that the increase was for July 1<sup>st</sup> and said freeze until we hear or what comes about with the Governor in June. Per Chairman Manseau we must get this rate up. We can ok the increase for now and if something changes, we can address at that time.  
Per Commissioner DellaCava he would like to stop the go ahead of the increase at this time and deeply feels to wait to see what the Governor says what is to happen with the State.  
Per Superintendent Morris the customers already have been notified that the increase is to occur July 1, 2020. A notice was sent with the May bill ahead of time. With the increase to begin July 1, 2020 and will be towards the budget for next year. If we freeze the sewer rates it will bring in \$535,000 plus the Betterment money. The Sewer District will be \$278,000 in the hole. This would wipe out the CD, the Federal Government will come in to take over and raise the rate to where it should be. Or if it is not done and holding of the rates will make them even higher than what we are recommending.  
Per Commissioner Lemieux, he would like to stay on schedule to keep the rate increase as it has been planned for July 1, 2020. If a Subscriber is having difficulty to pay, they can reach out and set up a payment plan. Having an agency step in down the road is not favorable. Per Chairman Manseau we must raise rate as of July 1,2020. Holding back at this point nothing to save the Sewer District. We are raising the rates, let people know that we are not going to shut them down, they can set up a payment plan and if the State says we cannot raise the rates we will address it before July 1. Per Commissioner DellaCava everyone knows that we have a

payment plan in place and more people are going to get on to a payment plan. Thinks our hands are tied with this pandemic. People are going to take care of their families first and will not pay their bills. He thinks we need to go with the people. Per Commissioner Lemieux it makes no difference what the rate is going to be if people are not going to pay. We need to run the District properly and cannot touch the Betterment money to run the budget. It is a horrible situation, but we need to do the right thing technically and legally. Chairman Manseau agrees with Commissioner Lemieux, that we need to continue to raise the rates as of July 1, 2020. Per Superintendent Morris he did reach out to the Governor if there is a possibility for loan forgiveness or stimulus aid and he has not heard back yet. RCAP has done something similar for us and waiting to get information back. Without throwing in the towel and not have someone else come in and take over. We'll show that we are trying to repay the loans and the rate increase will show this. Per Chairman Manseau dislikes that the rates need to be increased but it needs to be done July 1, 2020. Per Superintendent Morris to Commissioner DellaCava to clarify nothing is changing right now and the rates would not change till the July 1 bills. If we do come into financial assistance that would be great. In the meanwhile, we still have time if something where to change before July 1, 2020. Per Treasurer Wood it is easier to lower rates. However, does not believe it would nearly be enough to be received to not have an increase. Per Chairman Manseau if we get any money or a lot of money from the State, we can look at the rates and perhaps the increase would be not be as much. Commissioner Lemieux motions to increase the rates as of July 1, 2020. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. Commissioner DellaCava does not agree.

#### IV. ADMINISTRATION – Nothing to report

#### V. OPERATIONS –

##### **A. Superintendent Report** – We have reached out to McGovern's office to find solutions for assistance.

The sewer flows increased in the last month and 1/2 due to a lot of rain. Starting to see a decrease as things are drying out.

In the works to get a couple more manholes repaired. The plan to hit next fiscal year to get more done then.

Working with RCAP regarding the GIS System and hopefully will be able to show this soon. Operationally it will make things a lot smoother.

The meter was calibrated for its annual in April. Full diagnostics & calibration to the flow meter and is 100% working on the operating range.

The Old Route 9 manholes were scrapped – There were nine tons and the Sewer District received \$460.00. Scrap is way down but they were in the way and did not want to prolong another eight or nine mos. A slight return but will pay for at least one manhole.

The RFP for the Town Wide Study went out open bids to be expected for end of month.

It is that time of year to place Liens. There are a handful of properties that we do not have the ability to shut off. Currently there are 6 for a total \$12,600.00 and asks the Board if we are to go forward. Commissioner Lemieux recommends we go forward

as normally, Chairman Manseau and Commissioner DellaCava agree to all go forward with these liens.

- VI. COMMUNICATIONS – Nothing to Report
- VII. PERSONNEL - Nothing to Report
- VIII. DATE OF NEXT MEETING
  - A. Approval of Next Meeting Date** – Commissioner DellaCava motioned to hold the next virtual meeting June 4, 2020 at 7PM. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.
- IX. ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner DellaCava motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:49PM.

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