

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

MEETING MINUTES

June 12, 2019

7:00 P.M.

- I. CALL TO ORDER Chairman Manseau called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM with the following present:
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| Donald G. Manseau, Chairman | Robert H. Lemieux, Sr. Commissioner |
| Michael L. DellaCava, Commissioner | Benjamin J. Morris, Superintendent |
| Cheryl Balkus, Recording Secretary | |
| Jennifer Wood, Treasurer | |
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- A. **April 11, 2019** - Commissioner DellaCava motioned to approve the minutes of April 11, 2019. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in favor. Approved.
- III. FINANCE
- A. **Approve Warrants of May 9, 2019** - Commissioner DellaCava motioned to approve the warrants of May 9, 2019. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in favor. Approved
- B. **Approve Warrants of May 30, 2019** - Commissioner DellaCava motioned to approve the warrants of May 30, 2019. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in favor. Approved.
- C. **Approve Warrants of June 6, 2019** - Commissioner DellaCava motioned to approve the warrants of June 6, 2019. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in favor. Approved.
- D. **May Bank Transfer** – Commissioner DellaCava motioned to approve May transfer of \$25.16. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in Favor. Approved.
- E. **Treasurer Report** – Per Treasurer Wood as of May 2019 Billed Revenue received \$43,807.53 45, Betterment/Lien Revenue received \$1,990.19, Other Reimbursements \$0.00, Total Revenue \$45,797.72, Expenditures \$85,508.67, the loss is \$39,710.95. FY19 Total Revenue \$508,695.35, Expenditures \$831,951.52, FY19 Total Losses \$323,256.17. Commissioner Lemieux asked how the Sewer District in some months are in the positives. Per Treasurer Wood it is based on when we get invoices and when they are paid.
- F. **USDA LOANS** – Per Superintendent Morris there are three USDA loans that total \$310,000.00 per year with the principal and interest out of the annual budget. We spoke with all the political powers to be for loan forgiveness. Congressman McGovern's prior aid was researching to see if there could be forgiveness, and the sewer district did not receive an answer. There is now a new contact with no loan forgiveness, that it is not an option and to do this would be a national impact. Representative Leboeuf worked on ways to refinance and spoke with the Department of Treasury and the State and they reached out to us into the potential of refinancing the loans of a better interest rate. The current interest rates are 4.75% & 4.6%, The loans were taken out approximately 2001. The refi is about 2% annual savings of \$35,000 per year. The current balance is \$2,99 million on all three. The loans were to build the sewer system from Webster Square, Main Street and the neighborhoods. In lieu of paying an entrance fee to Worcester Cherry Valley Sewer District picked up the fee as it was a less expensive way to tie in. The project began approximately 2001. Design started in late 90's early 2000's. Superintendent Morris asking the Board of Commissioners if we should we give them

the go ahead to get the approval to do the refinancing. This is a glimmer of hope to help lowering payments. Commissioner DellaCava motions to proceed. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in favor Approved.

IV. ADMINISTRATION

- A. **Board Reorganization** – Commissioner DellaCava motions to elect Chairman Manseau as Chairman. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. Commissioner DellaCava motions that he could be the replacement of Commissioner Taylor’s position of the working group. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in favor. Approved. Commissioner Lemieux asked if the public can be invited. Per Superintendent Morris the working group is run by Senator Moore’s office everything is reported to the attendees and information is passed on. Senator Moore is securing his portion of the money and the money for the feasibility study. The study will show how all the merge would take place, the full study could take approximately a year, the money that Senator Moore is to receive is not available until October, the town is trying to get funding thru grants to not affect the taxpayers and an economic feasibility study is the work around for this to get the grant money. Per Superintendent Morris there in no definitive time frame. The decision will come about the same time when the sewer district money runs out and after this are the next steps, this is not a fast process. Commissioner Lemieux comments in a private sector it seems to take much to long to do this process. Per the Superintendent the state takes their time.
- B. **103 Brook Street** – needs a motion to ratify the betterment deferral for FY20 & FY21. Motion by Commissioner DellaCava Seconded by Lemieux. All In favor. Approved.

V. OPERATIONS

A. **Superintendent’s Report**

1. RCAP Update – Per Superintendent Morris they have been in a few times. The first item is a financial assessment of all sewer accounts being assessed the betterments and to ensure that the payment process is being done properly and to look at all financial aspects of the sewer district. Would like to have it wrapped up by end of July and then move to water. They try to be here once a week, she is commuting in from NH and thinks she can help the Sewer District. Superintendent Morris likes the idea of a second set of eyes. Her background is that she is a former Water Superintendent and a Civil Engineer. A customer asked if she is interested in the I/I. Per Superintendent Morris she is, she has been looking at the flow readings, she knows what we are flowing and looking to ensure being calculated correctly. She has seen the Worcester bills and what is being billed to the customers.

2.System Update – Superintendent Morris provides photographs and video of a manhole where there is the issue of I/I... The photos and video reveal decayed brick and mortar. There are 300 manholes in the district, 90% are in this poor condition. A manhole located by Wood Art and the road was leaking in brick. A chemical grout was put in place and slowed it down. To rebuild a structure is estimated at \$2,000 - \$4,000 per manhole. Another manhole was fixed, where there was significant water intrusion in the invert. After using chemical grout, the leak stopped. Pump run times in the neighborhood show the reduction in flow. With the new sealing process is supposed to last forever. There is another product that we were able to try for free to replace the brick and mortar. They are a rubberized riser or recycled poly. Superintendent Morris shows photos of a manhole that has several ground cracks around the top of the manhole, the manhole was cut out to show the brick & mortar all decayed. They brought it down to the precast structure, installed a concrete, installed poly rings with a special glue. No more brick and mortar. The cost is estimated to be less than brick and mortar and will be getting a price by the end of the week. Next demonstration is a manhole with water coming

in. It was cleaned with a wire brush a metal frame is installed and a rubber liner presses against the walls to prevent the water coming in. Installation can be done by the District. Depending where the leak is there are different products to handle those situations. With technology there is better improvements. We have an idea of which are the worst manholes. Mass DOT is repaving Route 9 from the Spencer line to Worcester line – We have been notified by them that they will be aiding to fix manholes along the way. If the Sewer District supplies the structure Mass DOT will do the labor. There are 45 manholes within our District on Route 9 and will help with the I/I. If we provide the structures and they do the labor will be a huge savings. Commissioner Lemieux expresses that if they are doing it to do them all now and perhaps take the money from the CD as it will save on the I/I will result in lower bills and if we do not use all the rebuilds on Route 9 they can be used on other poor manholes. Superintendent Morris is getting prices from all parties involved. Last March all other manholes were checked and will start again in the fall now that the Route 9 project is happening. April & May were very wet months. Flows were 130,000 gallons per day on May 14th. Now its been 60,000 per day for the last 10 days. Customer impressed with the less flow, the district will see the savings by lower bills from the city and lower the bills from the Upper Blackstone. An update with a better flow meter system to track it has a rain gauge and graph to what goes thru the city. Once it is set up there will be a way to print out reporting. Daily flow numbers will help with the budgeting. Commissioner Lemieux motions to investigate funding the manhole products for the repairs. Seconded by Commissioner DellaCava. All in Favor. Approved.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. **UBWPAD Update** - Per Chairman Manseau – they continue with construction and continue with spending money to get the phosphorus numbers down. Phase A should be complete in October. Superintendent Morris requesting Chairman Manseau to inquire if we can have a tour of the Upper Blackstone. He will inquire and report back at the next meeting.
- B. **Customer Request: 7 Harding Street** – A customer has requested an abatement. They are currently being billed a flat bedroom rate of 4 bedrooms. The customer had the town come to the property to confirm it is a 3 bedroom. The paperwork provided by the customer is dated March 2019. Commissioner Lemieux made a motion to have records confirmed at the town hall Thursday June 13, 2019 and if confirmed all agreed that the abatement would be from March 2019. Seconded by Commissioner DellaCava. All in favor. Approved.

VII. PERSONNEL -

VIII. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- A. **Approval of Next Meeting Date** - Commissioner DellaCava motioned to hold the next meeting on July 11, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in favor. Approved.

- IX. **ADJOURNMENT** – Commissioner DellaCava motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.