

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

**MEETING MINUTES  
February 16, 2023  
7:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER Chairman Manseau called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Donald Manseau, Chairman  
Robert H. Lemieux, Sr. Commissioner  
Peter Cusolito, Commissioner  
Benjamin J. Morris, Superintendent  
Jennifer Wood, Treasurer  
Cheryl Balkus, Recording Secretary

Subscriber: Tom Lennon  
Nonsubscriber: Greg Buteau

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. **January 12, 2023** - Commissioner Lemieux motioned to approve the meeting minutes of January 12, 2023. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.

III. FINANCE –

A. **Approve Warrant of January 26, 2023**

B. **Approve Warrant of February 2, 2023**

C. **Approve Warrant of February 9, 2023**

D. **Approve Warrant of February 16, 2023**

Commissioner Cusolito motions to approve the above listed warrants. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in favor. Approved.

IV. ADMINISTRATION

- A. **Public Request Policy** – Per Commissioner Cusolito scaling it down and it is better to have a local policy Commissioner Lemieux motion to approve the public request policy. Seconded by Commissioner Cusolito. All in favor. Approved.

Nonsubscriber Gregory Buteau provided a letter to Commissioner Cusolito that basically says how you can take an 83-page guide and say that this is the policy because the reverse you leave all other pages in open meeting guide. If the commission is insistent of it and do the reverse of it the district could run into a problem. Per Commissioner Cusolito it does not replace the law it's just a guide for what we can do, we still must follow the law. Per Mr. Buteau will submit and see if this can be done. Per Commissioner Cusolito commented of what is highlighted in Buteaus piece is what is the law and we are not replacing it Commissioner Cusolito is saying that it is just a guide for the district to go by.

- B. **Draft Budget** – Per the Superintendent this is version 1 of what is being projected for the next fiscal year. There are internal items to work out with the service agreement, increases due to inflation as everyone is seeing this. There has been a lot of time calculated with heat/electricity since we converted from oil to electric and propane heat and trying to come up with a formula of what is for office and the well. Sewer should not be paying electricity costs towards the well.

44% of use is the office and determine heat expense is 70/30% split. Also used past historical data. Sewer pump station bills are on the town rate. Office cannot be due to amount of usage and category. Current supplier is with Constellation.

Prices of manhole covers have almost tripled when we did work on route 9. Trying to replace 4 cover and frames of structures is now priced at \$4,500 for frames and covers. Subcontractor rates increased. May not be enough funds in the current budget to do smoke testing.

\$1,500 reduction from the Upper Blackstone.

City of Worcester appears to hold same as last year. Planning board recently passed 66-unit division and we may see in the next fiscal year. There will be a connection fee of each unit @ \$8,300.00 to the district.

This is a draft and should have better information for the next meeting. Trying to keep as close as we did last year. Maintaining of what we are doing.

Commissioner Cusolito commented regarding heat costs. Per the Superintendent and the Treasurer, we need more data this is a draft version and see where it can be fine-tuned.

Mr. Buteau asked if the revenue that comes in with the subdivision will the intent be to use the funds to assist in paying off the debt. Per the Superintendent the sewer district has never had a positive balance. We need to assess what needs to be done in the system and determine what the best avenue will be.

- C. Operations – Per the Superintendent called for meter calibrations and the company we use has a major staffing shortage and no certifications to do. RE Ericson is several months out for availability. Subscriber Lennon was looking to have it done in the winter to compare. Subscriber Lennon feels steam condensation can influence the sensor and requesting to see calibration reports and that they are calibrating the way they are supposed to be. The Superintendent will pull information to provide. The Superintendent also stated that when opening the location of the meter is that there has never been steam that comes out in the winter months and the Superintendent wants additional analog data installed to measure real time height difference.

Started with opening manholes when we had heavy rains. Began into route 9 and worked upstream. Found 2 manholes with ground water coming in. Two years ago, we found others and the contractor would drill into the side and fill with a special grout. We are in the process of having the previous company come in to do the repairs. Found another issue on the Henshaw St area, had Helgerson come in with jetter and brought in and a camera to check for any cracked pipes and nothing found.

Commissioner Cusolito asked about the manholes of Auburn St. The town has this street at the top paving project, and the Superintendent is not aware of this as of yet.

V. Date of Next Meeting:

- A. Approval of Next Meeting Date - Commissioner Lemieux motioned to hold the next Sewer Meeting March 16, 2023, at 7:00 P.M at 148 Henshaw St Leicester, MA. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.

- VI. ADJOURNMENT Commissioner Cusolito motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm

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