

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 23, 2024**  
**6:30 P.M.**  
**CHERRY VALLEY & ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT - Hybrid**

**I. CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order by Chairman Levesque at 6:30 P. M.

The following were in attendance:

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| Joseph McGinn, Commissioner                   |                              |
| Arthur E.J. Levesque, Chairman                | 1 - subscriber in attendance |
| Benjamin Morris, Superintendent               | 1 - online subscriber        |
| Robert H. Lemieux, Sr., Commissioner – online |                              |
| Jennifer Wood, Treasurer                      |                              |
| Cheryl Balkus, Clerk                          |                              |

**II. District Member Forum** – Chairman Levesque called the district member forum to begin. There were no discussions or comments. Commissioner McGinn motions to close the district member forum seconded by Chairman Levesque. All in favor. Approved.

**III. APPROVE MINUTES**

April 2, 2024, Meeting Minutes - Commissioner McGinn motions to approve the April 2, 2024, minutes. Seconded by Chairman Levesque. All in favor. Approved.

Amended to add the word changing.

**IV. FINANCE**

- A.** Approve April 8, 2024, Warrant
- B.** Approve April 15, 2024, Warrant
- C.** Approve April 22, 2024, Warrant

Commissioner McGinn motions to approve all the above warrants. Seconded by Chairman Levesque. All in favor. Approved.

- D.** FY25 Budget – Commissioner McGinn motions to approve the FY25 budget as proposed for the total \$1,313,530.71. Seconded by Chairman Levesque. All in favor. Approved.

- E.** Warrant Articles items 1-7 are standard articles.

The language in Article 4 added to incorporate to include \$115,000.00 free cash to help fund the budget. Commissioner McGinn motions to approve the FY25 warrant articles. Seconded by Chairman Levesque. All in favor. Approved.

Subscriber Buteau commented about articles 9 & 10 (OPEB). As a rate payer and on the behalf of others that the water district should hold off until the commissioners see what the sewer district is going to pay. He does not feel that the water district should be paying for all of this, and the sewer should share a portion. As for the rate study, does not see the need for this. The staff can look at the forecast ahead and that a hydraulic study was done 6 years ago that gives a feel of what the district is heading into. Considers this not the prudent use of money and that the money can be used elsewhere. Per the Superintendent this is not to just look at the water rates it is to look at also all the other rates of the district. What can we do without money for future

projects. Wants to look 10 years into the future to better the district and be conscientious to the rates payers at the same time.

Per Commissioner Lemieux we need to modify the language to what the Superintendent explained of a rate study. Commissioner McGinn suggested a different title name from Rate Study to a Financial Planning Forecast.

Commissioner McGinn motions to approve the warrant articles as amended. Seconded by Chairman Levesque. All in favor. Approved.

## **V. Administration**

### **A. Water use restrictions**

Commissioner McGinn motions to approve the Water use restrictions. Seconded by Chairman Levesque. All in favor. Approved.

## **VI. Operations**

Hydrant flushing should be completed by the end of the week beginning of next week.

Sargent St water line majority of the line is installed and hopefully should be done by the end of next week.

Continue to monitor arsenic levels of the well. Still violating after the 1<sup>st</sup> vessel and beginning to detect on the second vessel. On par to change out the media in July, holding at 50,000 gallons per day and reduced flows to not allow heavy flows of the arsenic.

There will be a meeting with the Solar Company tomorrow to go over the next steps in the process. We are not locked into anything.

The first round of terminations began with 38 accounts, 24 accounts terminated. There are approximately six accounts that remain off that have not paid.

Forest Management Plan – The DCR paid for the costs. An approved plan received, next will be to enter into an agreement to develop into a cutting plan and put bid out to contractors who will pay us the highest price. There is no up-front cost to the district for any of this. Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the Forest Management Plan. Seconded by Commissioner McGinn. All in favor. Approved.

Superintendent Morris and Commissioner McGinn met with a representative from Aquarion water. There was nothing different from when meeting with them in 2019 and there was not a lot of interest in the sewer. Per the superintendent they have asked for a lot of information and did not know if he and the treasurer should spend a lot of time gathering the information if the district is not interested in further pursuing. Per Commissioner McGinn there will be difficult times for them to implement capital improvements, there is a value to us as commissioners to look at the same information, there could be some value having Aquarion put something concrete on the table as opposed a seat of their pants scenarios and has a major concern as how they handle people. There is not so much an issue for the field staff as being licensed professionals and being treated very well in being brought up to their current pay grades. Not comfortable with what would happen with the office staff. There are some mass-based

limitations to prevent them purchasing a sewer system. The only answer would be for them to contract and would need to be approval of the commissioners of the sewer. He feels we should stay the course, thank them for their time. This was the consensus of the board.

- VII.** Date of Next Meeting: Commissioner Lemieux motions to have the next hybrid meeting. June 4, 2024, at the 148 Henshaw St at 6:30 P.M. Seconded by Commissioner McGinn. All in Favor. Approved.
- VIII.** Adjournment: Commissioner Lemieux motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner McGinn. All in favor. Approved. The meeting ended at 7:49 pm.