

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

MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2024

6:00 P.M.

- I. CALL TO ORDER Chairman Manseau called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm

Donald Manseau, Chairman 0 - Subscriber 0 - Nonsubscriber
Robert H. Lemieux, Sr. Commissioner - absent
Peter Cusolito, Commissioner
Benjamin J. Morris, Superintendent
Jennifer Wood, Treasurer
Cheryl Balkus, Recording Secretary

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. **November 16, 2023** - Commissioner Cusolito motioned to approve the meeting minutes of November 16, 2023. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.

III. FINANCE –

- a. Approve warrant of November 30, 2023
- b. Approve warrant of December 7, 2023
- c. Approve warrant of December 14, 2023
- d. Approve warrant of January 4, 2024
- e. Approve warrant of January 11, 2024

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

- f. Treasurer Report – Per Treasurer Wood the Operating budget is in the positive awaiting bill from the City of Worcester that should be approximately \$115,000.00 and it will be for two quarters. We are halfway through the budget, current revenues received to date \$370,118.12 amount left \$386,095.62. Commissioner Cusolito approves the treasurer report. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.

IV. ADMINISTRATION

- a. 1-3-2024 M. Darling request – Subscriber Margaret Darling sent an email to the board asking would it be possible to get a reduction of \$15.00 per account in the base rate and still be financially stable? Per the Superintendent and Treasurer Wood a \$15.00 reduction is approximately \$82,000 lost revenue to the district. Currently with our budget we could potentially be at a minimum \$12,000.00 short. To add in an \$82,000.00 reduction would not be feasible. The district is doing the bare minimum repair and maintenance, and we pay close attention to what money is being spent on.
Per the Superintendent we may need to hire someone for a rate study that would not be bad to see how on point we are with the rates and per Treasurer Wood we are beginning to look at the new budget and it appears that we may need to have a rate increase. Per Commissioner Cusolito motions to not have the \$15.00 decrease. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved. Commissioner Cusolito will email to respond to Margaret.

V. OPERATIONS

Flows are high due to rain amounts and snow melting, and we are our looking for issues in I/I. There is a formal award to be announced in January to assist with doing work to locating and fixing the issues. Going to find out if we can start earlier instead of waiting. We intend to get \$140,000.00 from the State.

A company was used to calibrate the meter on Dec 28, 2023. It passed to be on point with the range that it should be. The representative that was used recommended installation of another meter after the flume. There are different options available:

To purchase a meter outright is \$19,569.79 and \$579.00 being of the data plan.

To Rent \$944.00 a month, installation \$2,500.00 then \$750.00 removal at the end of the rental.

To Lease \$1,225.00 a month installation \$2,500.00 and \$750.00 to remove.

With the rental we maintain it, with the lease they maintain it and includes all annual software costs. It is an option and would like to see what the flows are at to compare. If we had the ARPA grant now would be helpful to tracking, I/I. The new meter is an open flow channel meter that reads the velocity. The current meter measures the depth, conversion of the flume.

Commissioner Cusolito requested the information be sent to him to be further read up on. It is an option and something to consider.

Began working on the budget with Treasurer Wood so we can fine tune as the months go on. Prices that are being received from the vendors change frequently and with the economy we cannot reduce any more. Commissioner Cusolito commented investing can be as a cost savings and sometimes people do not receive it this way.

VI. Date of Next Meeting:

Approval of Next Meeting Date – Commissioner Cusolito motioned to hold the next Sewer Meeting February 8, 2024, at 6:00 pm at 148 Henshaw St Leicester, MA. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.

VII. ADJOURNMENT - Commissioner Cusolito motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.

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