

**CHERRY VALLEY SEWER DISTRICT
BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
HYBRID
MEETING MINUTES
March 21, 2024
6:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER Chairman Manseau called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

1 - Subscriber 1- Nonsubscriber

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. **February 22, 2024** – Commissioner Cusolito motioned to approve the meeting minutes of February 22, 2024. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.

III. FINANCE

- a. Approve warrant of March 7, 2024
b. Approve warrant of March 21, 2024

Commissioner Lemieux inquired about an item on the warrant listed as consulting. Per Superintendent Morris, as previously discussed this was for the required annual sewer flow report for the Upper Black Stone. We did not have one, needed to have a template developed for the future so that we can submit on our own going forward.

Commissioner Cusolito motions to approve all the March 7 & 21, 2024 warrants.
Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in favor. Approved.

- c. Treasurer Report – As of February

February Sewer Revenue: \$52,178.91 Total to date Revenue: \$445,634.67
Betterment total to date: \$32,054.48
Liens to date: \$9,457.77
Misc, Drainlayers, etc... to date: \$25.00
Total to date: \$483,372.54.

Budget: \$722,636.44	Total: \$722,636.44
Amount left to collect: \$277,001.77	Total: \$239,263.90
Expenditures \$453,052.29	Total: \$453,052.29
Revenue – Expenditures: (\$7,417.62)	Balance: \$30,320.25

Per the Superintendent doing best in trying to not spend anything and to avoid going over.
Per Treasurer Wood the City of Worcester line item is going to cut it close.

Subscriber Lennon asked if the flows slowing down. Per the Superintendent they have been skyrocketing, staff are doing everything to maintain, flow is there and making every effort to locate where the issue is.

- d. Budget Review – For the proposed FY25 budget \$791,537.47 compared to FY24 \$722.636.44 A difference of \$70,373.62. Beyond the district's control everything has gone up.
Technology: is for the billing software update that the sewer district must share with the water district. Office staff have spoken with five different billing software companies, and it has been narrowed down to 2. We are leaning towards a new company that is less expensive, and waiting to find out from the current billing software company as to their fee is to get our data. The City of Worcester & the Upper Blackstone will have increases.

With the increases, based on what is left for betterments payments and if everyone pays the sewer district needs to increase rates. Treasurer Wood provided 3 different percentage scenarios for the FY25 Budget beginning at 8%, 11% & 12%.

Budget \$791,537.41 less \$30,000.00 in Betterments = \$761,537.41

An 8% increase would bring in an estimated \$747,110.97.

An 11% increase would bring in an estimated \$764,864.05.

A 12% increase would bring in an estimated \$774,781.74.

Per Commissioner Lemieux does not believe in pushing it off and beginning with the 8% increase then change it part way through and suggests the 12% increase. Yes, it's upsetting that with all the increases happening the sewer district is also experiencing it and we do not want the sewer district to be back to where we were before. The key is transparency and education. There is no escaping it as it is happening everywhere.

Per the Superintendent and Treasurer will require to have the approval from the Commissioners at the next meeting.

Subscriber Lennon asked if the transportation rate will remain the same. Per the Treasurer it could change because the city does not let us know the exact number till the end of July.

IV. ADMINISTRATION – Nothing to Report

V. OPERATIONS

Per Superintendent Morris continues to manage the flows and working with the DPC regarding the asset grant to target the I/I (Inflow & Infiltration) issues. The staff has been in the manholes during the wet weather to identify if and where the heavy flows are. While doing dig safe markings for the Sargent St. Project identified a manhole that was sunken in, and the cover had a golf ball size hole in it. Repairs were made. In another manhole found a large mason jar in the system that was creating a blockage.

Materials have been ordered for work of repairing / replacing the 9 manholes on Willow Hill Rd before paving and then move to the 9 manholes on Auburn Street if the town paves it in the next fiscal year.

DPC completed the annual assessment report that is to be submitted to DEP.

VI. Date of Next Meeting:

Approval of Next Meeting Date – Commissioner Lemieux motioned to hold the next Sewer Meeting April 11, 2024, at 6:30 pm at 148 Henshaw St Leicester, MA. Seconded by Commissioner Cusolito. All in favor. Approved.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner Cusolito motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in favor. Approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

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