

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
HYBRID MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 7, 2022  
7:00 P.M.  
CHERRY VALLEY & ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT**

**I. CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting called to order by Chairman Bergin @ 7:01 pm

The following were in attendance:

Kevin Bergin, Chairman  
Arthur E.J. Levesque, Commissioner  
Benjamin Morris, Superintendent  
Robert H. Lemieux, Sr., Commissioner  
Jennifer Wood, Treasurer - virtually  
Cheryl Balkus, Clerk

1 subscriber in attendance 2 online

**II. District Member Forum** – There were no questions or comments from the listening audience or in person audience and there were no questions or comments from the board of commissioners. Commissioner Lemieux motions to suspend the remaining minutes of the forum. Seconded by Chairman Bergin ended 2 minutes and 9 seconds.

**III. APPROVE MINUTES**

**A. May 10, 2022, Meeting Minutes** - Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the May 10, 2022, meeting minutes. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

**IV. FINANCE**

**A. Approve May 16, 2022, Warrants** – Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the May 16, 2022, warrants. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

Commissioner Levesque to the Superintendent for explanation of Stiles company listed on the warrant – This is the company we purchase meters from.

Commissioner Lemieux are we voting on 1 page at a time or multiple pages. Per Chairman Bergin if there is 1 or more pages it is a vote of all pages of the warrant.

Commissioner Lemieux to the Superintendent to explain warrant no 5570 Baystate Regional Contractors. This is the contractor that is getting the Grindstone well back online and the invoice \$148,763.89 is what we have received and paid.

**B. Approve May 23, 2022, Warrants**- Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the May 23, 2022, warrants. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in favor. Approved.

Commissioner Lemieux asked the Superintendent to explain who CA Turner Company is - This is a company we do business with and purchased a metal detector that is to locate devices in the street. The one we currently have is 20 years old the repairs would be more and replaced it with the new one.

**C. Approve May 30, 2022, Warrants** – Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the May 9, 2022, warrants. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

Commissioner Lemieux asked the Superintendent for explanation of the following invoices:

Hydra Tech in the amount of \$16,410.00. May 12<sup>th</sup> at approximately 5:00 pm we had a water main break on Ingram Rd. This is a contractor used from the rotation list. The leak was repaired by midnight, there was additional clean up (gravel, mud, pavement) and final fill and paving to be done after it dried out. It was completed within 2 days.

Worcester Mobile Lock and Key for \$239.00 – This company was used to replace the locking mechanism of the door to the of the well room and all other keys in the system to be keyed alike.

Davis Auto: Our compressor blew a coolant line while working the repair in May and they did the repair.

Town of Leicester lien fees for \$500.00: When we place a water lien on a property the town charges us the \$100 fee. The subscriber is charged for this so that we are paid back for it. There were 5 water liens.

**D. Approve June 6, 2022, Warrants** – Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the June 6, 2022, warrants. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

Commissioner Lemieux asked the Superintendent to explain the following invoices. HCA Management \$4,000.00 – This came in to do the appraisal of all our properties to ensure all the assets are to be insured properly.

Badger Meter \$456.57: As new meters are installed; we need to pay an annual fee for the cell chip that is inside of the meters. The fee changes as we add more meters to the system. It is \$0.89 a month per transmitter.

Commissioner Levesque asked when someone is buying a house do we decide or arrange with the new owner(s) to have the meter changed out. Per Cheryl Balkus confirmed that we do.

The summary of warrants consists of trash, payroll, telephone, Grindstone Well \$148,763.89, insurance, lab work, office expense, heat, meters, electricity, City of Worcester \$27,958.02, retirement, small tool, repairs & maintenance, postage, subcontractor, motor vehicle repairs, technology, and pipes for a total of \$254,460.52.

**E. May Bank Transfer** – Commissioner Levesque motions to transfer from the water checking account to the sewer checking account \$63,730.77. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

**V. ADMINISTRATION –**

- A.** Reorganization of the Board – Commissioner Levesque motions to reorganize the board. Commissioner Lemieux motions to nominate Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

**VI. Operations**

**A. Superintendent's Report –**

Water main break May 12 - located valve to stop losing water. Crews started excavation, approximately 5 hours of digging because it was a linear break. Water restored by midnight. Significant clean up, taking out asphalt and replacing and finished about 3am.

Hydrant flushing has been completed. Was delayed a couple of days due to the leak.

Tata & Howard finished review of the Huntoon Memorial Highway warehouse facility being built and a letter being submitted to the project engineer to start coordinating their water tapping and to pay all their connection fees to the district. Contractors want to start work very soon.

Paperwork submitted to Mass Save to get the heating project done.

An energy grant may be available they notify you 45 days before it is due that requires a Facilities Assessment. We have not had this done and has reached out to a group at UMass Amherst that does this to prepare for the next round of grants. We may be able to install solar panels at the facility that we would own, battery backup systems, upgrades to VSD (variable speed drives) for the pumping stations both water and sewer and with the upgrade would allow us to be most self-reliant and energy efficient. At this time, we would not make the first round but when the assessment is done by UMass Amherst it will be paid for by them. From the conversation with his contact the upgrades could be potentially eligible, and we would be required to come up with 10% of the total cost. Example if it was \$100,000, we would need to come up with \$10,000. To replace 10 pumps would be \$100,000. So, if the district only pays \$10,000 this is great. Also agreed by Chairman Bergin.

Reached out to Tata & Howard to draft up a contract of the Sargent St water line design and should have back by next meeting.

Well update – There is the delay of the pumps to come in, supposed to have been in after June 18. In the mean while they are building chemical feed equipment in their shop to bring in, mount and wire up to be ready. Hoping to activate well by end of July.

Planning out annual tank inspection required by MassDEP. Previously tanks are drained, and power washed. He was contacted by a company Underwater Solutions that they send a scuba diver that goes into the tank with a suction line to remove any debris off the bottom of the tank to do the cleaning, does the digital inspections and takes photos. To do one tank was under \$4,000.00. For us to drain, take tank offline, extra sampling we would spend more than \$4,000.00. After diver has been in the tank water, disinfection, and water is tested. He is trying to get someone in August to do 1 tank.

Contacted by residents that rocky fill material being dumped into the area at 200 S Main St which is in a direct upstream area within our watershed to Henshaw Pond. Did reach out to the town to see if they had conservation approvals and what was being dumped at the site. Information that came back was concerning that the contractor was dumping soil and rock of similar levels of arsenic as found in the town. Being concerned reached out to DEP if anything in drinking water regulation to stop this and spent time reviewing bylaws to the town bylaws and the town ordered a cease-and-desist order. There is nothing further ongoing here. Wanted to ensure since holding active registration of Henshaw Pond and protecting of the Pond if we were to ever use it in the future. Letter was sent to the building inspector and has it available to the Commissioners if they want a copy of it. For the cease and desist to be lifted the owner of the property would need to appeal it with the town. The soil came from Clark University Project.

Vehicle Purchase Update – Salesperson has been contacted and working on what is available in the inventory. Some trucks on lots throughout the state to see what they have and not spoken for, and another group of trucks will be available July or September. As

soon as they have one that meets the criteria, we will have our name placed on it. Commissioner Lemieux asked if any luck on used. Per the Superintendent does not believe we can do this as the way the article was worded as new. Commissioner Lemieux was under the impression wasn't an avenue to pursue or comfortable to pursue and when at the meeting was corrected and discussion after the meeting with the impression that we could go with used and has seen some opportunities to pursue.

It comes back to if we are a private entity. Chairman Bergin interjected that we are not a private entity we are subscriber owned and must follow municipality rules. Per Commissioner Lemieux since being subscriber owned why can't we do what is best for the subscribers and find something preowned or any other thing we purchase. This is a technicality that cost us more money, not advantageous to the subscriber base and defies logic.

Per Chairman Bergin there is a process to purchase used it is different than what has been done in the past. There is cost associated to advertise for the bid. Subscriber Buteau you can't pick it out but a truck with a certain rating and send out advertise for bids. Per Commissioner Lemieux in the used market, you won't get the same 2 vehicles and using the bid process we have a specific outline for new or used. Per Chairman Bergin there is a cost associated to bid and we could get nothing. Commissioner Lemieux looking at saving \$10,000 - \$20,000 less than new and asked what the approximate fees would to advertise. Per the Superintendent could be \$1,000. Per Commissioner Lemieux there are options out there and what would happen if we did it anyway? Who will slap our wrists if we did not go with new? Per the Superintendent the warrant was voted new, this would be a legal question. Commissioner Lemieux if we do something beneficial for the subscribers what would be the punishment? Commissioner Levesque you never know because the warrant was for new. Per the Superintendent does not know if the Treasurer could legally cut the check and may fall on the Treasurer. We could ask legal that would cost maybe 100 - \$150. The article is specified for a new pick-up truck and did not specify a year. Per Chairman Bergin as for used vehicle can do test run and then tomorrow it breaks and there is the potential that the rate payers would come back to say you were supposed to purchase new and now cost more money for repair. Per Commissioner Lemieux not looking at junk, preowned certified and has been in the business for 30 years. He himself does not purchase new. Thanked for the time of listening. Commissioner Levesque stated is only in favor of new.

**VII. Communications – Nothing to report**

**VIII. PERSONNEL – Nothing to report**

**IX. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**A. Approval of Next Meeting** - Commissioner Lemieux motioned to hold the next meeting Hybrid Tuesday, June 28, at the Town Hall Selectboard Room 3 Washburn Square Leicester, MA @ 7:00 PM. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in favor. Approved.

**X. ADJOURNMENT-** Commissioner Levesque motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 P.M.