

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

VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 2021

7:00 P.M.

- I. CALL TO ORDER Chairman Manseau called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. with the following present:

Donald Manseau, Chairman	LCAC
Robert H. Lemieux, Sr. Commissioner	1 Non-Subscriber
Michael DellaCava, Commissioner	
Benjamin J. Morris, Superintendent	
Jennifer Wood, Treasurer	
Cheryl Balkus, Recording Secretary	

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. **January 14, 2021** Commissioner DellaCava motioned to approve the meeting minutes of January 14, 2021. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.

III. FINANCE

- A. **Approve the Warrant of January 21, 2021** – Commissioner DellaCava motioned to approve the warrant of January 21, 2021. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved. \$37,511.68
- B. **Approve the Warrant of February 11, 2021** – Commissioner DellaCava motioned to approve the warrant of February 11, 2021. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in favor. Approved. \$1,650.26
- C. **Approve the Warrant of February 18, 2021** – Commissioner DellaCava motioned to approve the warrant of February 18, 2021. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved. \$972.80
- D. **Approve the Warrant of March 4, 2021** - Commissioner DellaCava motioned to approve the warrant of March 4, 2021. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in favor. Approved.
- E. **Approve the Warrant of March 11, 2021** - Commissioner Lemieux motioned to approve the warrant of March 11, 2021. Seconded by Commissioner DellaCava. All in favor. Approved. \$28,103.15
- F. **Ratify Sewer Rate Relief** – Per Treasurer Wood we apply for this every year, we had to send in right away and needed signatures to send it in.
- G. **FY22 Draft Budget** – Per Superintendent Morris financially for next year in a good position, a lot of decreases in expenses and finding ways to save and rectify issues with the Sewer District. A large savings from the Upper Blackstone with a 13.5% decrease in a \$14,000 decrease in a payment and reducing the City of Worcester

treatment another \$35,000.00 to bring it down in operating expense. With the decreases the budget to reduce by \$60,546.08. Last year was a potential for a rate increase. However, with what we are doing and lowering we believe we can make it by with a level funded budget and not increase the rate. We have made sure the current rate structure in place will not change for the next year and take it from there.

Per Treasurer Wood the items in red are items shared with the water district. Commissioner Lemieux requested explanation of the 20/80. Per Treasurer Wood these are shared accounts in expenses. 20% of the sewer is shared with the Water District.

Non-Subscriber Gregory Buteau asking about health insurance at a 20/80 split. The water is insurance that includes liability and others over an above the health insurance. Sewer has only one line.

Field supplies use to be a split in past budgets and was shared. Per the Superintendent the field supplies we are buying more items strictly for sewer and should not be shared with water.

Commissioner DellaCava to the Chairman; What would be the chances of combining the water and sewer together so we can work under one budget? Per Chairman Manseau said would be Treasurer situation. Per Treasurer Wood it would need to go into legislation this was previously looked at and knew there was a lot involved. Chairman Manseau suggests leaving it as is.

- H. USDA Update – Per Superintendent Morris the discussions have been ongoing for USDA to decrease the interest rate on the 3 loans we have. There have been different challenges. The paperwork submitted to the DC office is to try and reduce from 4.5% interest to 1.2% or 1.6%, and to try to extend out to refinance for an additional 10 years to lowering our payment. The work is being done between us, RCAP and USDA. We do not know if they can do all the loans or a portion and this is the hold up. If both come into play could be reducing our debt of close to half but it is a waiting time until we receive an email or call and will bring it to the Boards attention. Per Chairman Manseau keep working on, doing a great job.

Draft Annual Warrant Articles – The CVSD Annual meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2021. The articles that are written are the typical articles with no special articles.

Non-Subscriber Buteau to the Superintendent if he approached the subject with the Commissioners regarding capital expenditure of the dump truck and will sewer be willing to share the 30/70 split. Per the Superintendent he did not include it in this meeting because there is still a lot of research to do with it and did not want to present with all facts and information to discuss. In the past we never cost shared the overall purchase. We have cost shared with the maintenance.

IV. ADMINISTRATION – Nothing to Report

V. OPERATIONS –

A. Superintendent Report – Since January flows have been average 95,000 per day not terrible, starting to see signs of melting and moisture. Flows up typical and not out of the ordinary. Planning to do repairs to lift station to replace valves and scheduling an update of parts. Nothing will be out of service. Sewer has been in a good position in recent months. Last months flows higher but at the same time with the money value of the city transportation fee looking at \$2,000 for the month well under per quarter margin. We are at \$35,000 for first two months of the quarter and year to date continue to see more savings and potentially another reduction with the Upper Blackstone again.

Come in the spring to do manhole repairs and coordinate with the Highway Department if areas need to be repaved, to do these first then go neighborhood to neighborhood. To transition to Brown Street, Bottomly Ave. and side streets to targets for those repairs.

Commissioner DellaCava inquired if there was an update to the Working Group. Per the Superintendent there is no exact meeting date. They are waiting to receive a real draft of the town study. Each Superintendent us & Leicester did receive a draft with a handful of errors that are to be corrected. Once the draft of the draft is received it will then be given to the Board members, then after approval it will go to the second phase of bringing districts together. He believes this could be a month or two out. Funding is up end of summer and this would be the entire \$200,000.00.

Commissioner Dellacava inquired if there would be more money to get from Congressman McGovern's office.

Per Superintendent Morris unaware other than you need a project to get a grant. We do not have this, no large projects to qualify for any of this funding of this sort.

Non-Subscriber Buteau while attending another meeting that the Town Administrator reported that the report it is out to the respective boards and perhaps, he is not aware and implied it is in the water sewer districts hands. Per the Superintendent he will follow up with the Town Administrator. Mr. Buteau concerned about closing the communication gap.

Per Commissioner Lemieux he wanted it to be noted that he did not make the prior comment that Mr. Buteau was referencing to that it was Commissioner DellaCava who asked the question.

VI. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A. Approval of Next Meeting Date – Commissioner Lemieux motioned to hold the next Virtual Sewer Meeting April 8, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner Lemieux motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner DellaCava. All in favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 P.M.