

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**January 17, 2019**

**7:00 P.M.**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Manseau called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the following present:
- |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Donald G. Manseau, Chairman        | Jennifer M. Wood, Treasurer        |
| Michael L. DellaCava, Commissioner | Cheryl Balkus, Recording Secretary |
| Victor M. Taylor, Commissioner     | Greg Buteau, Not a CVSD customer   |
| Benjamin J. Morris, Superintendent | Tom Lennon, Customer               |
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
- A. **November 8, 2018** - Commissioner DellaCava motioned to approve the minutes of November 8, 2018. Seconded by Commissioner Taylor. All in favor. Approved.
- B. **December 10, 2018 Joint Meeting** - Commissioner DellaCava motioned to approve the December 10, 2018 Joint Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Taylor. All in favor. Approved.
- III. **FINANCE**
- A. **Approve Warrants of November 15, 2018** - Commissioner DellaCava motioned to approve the warrants of November 15, 2018. Seconded by Commissioner Taylor. All in favor. Approved.
- B. **Approve Warrants of December 6, 2018** - Commissioner Taylor motioned to approve the warrants of December 6, 2018. Seconded by Commissioner DellaCava. All in favor. Approved.
- C. **Approve Warrants of December 13, 2018** - Commissioner Taylor motioned to approve the warrants of December 13, 2018. Seconded by Commissioner DellaCava. All in favor. Approved.
- D. **Approve Warrants of December 20, 2018** - Commissioner Taylor motioned to approve the warrants of December 20, 2018. Seconded by Commissioner DellaCava. All in favor. Approved.
- E. **Approve Warrants of December 27, 2018** - Commissioner Taylor motioned to approve the warrants of December 27, 2018. Seconded by Commissioner DellaCava. All in favor. Approved.
- F. **Approve Warrants of January 10, 2019** - Commissioner Taylor motioned to approve the warrants of January 10, 2019. Seconded by Commissioner DellaCava. All in favor. Approved.
- G. **Approve Warrants of January 17, 2019** - Commissioner DellaCava motioned to approve the warrants of January 17, 2019. Seconded by Commissioner Taylor. All in favor. Approved.
- H. **Approve December Bank Transfer** - Commissioner DellaCava motioned to approve the December Bank Transfer of \$72.29 & \$54.26 from water to sewer. Seconded by Commissioner Taylor. All in favor. Approved.
- IV. **Financial Update** – The Treasurer Jennifer Wood reports that as of end of December losses are \$83,203.93. There are three more payments to be made to the City of Worcester and estimate of \$150,000.00 - \$200,000.00 dollars, \$19,986.75 payment to the Upper Blackstone, \$30,642.21 payment to CVRWD Service Agreement and \$182,000.00 in loan payments. The majority of income that is received is from betterments payments and we continue to in

arrears. Superintendent Morris and Treasurer Wood state we do not know if we are going to be receiving any financial aid and suggest to the board that there be an independent rate study. The study would cost would be \$7,500.00. Customers keep an eye and watch and we must show every effort and though it is an expense it's a good expense to see what it will take to fund it. Commissioner Taylor also agrees that a rate study should be done with comment that he would like the City of Worcester to include us into their schedule but does not know how it can be done. The rate study will have an end result with their recommendation to increase the rates to meet our bills. Commissioner Taylor then requested that the Superintendent contact the Town of Holden requesting to be informed of the proceedings of the pending law suit of price gouging that the Town of Holden filed against the City of Worcester. The Superintendent responded that that it will be made publically. Commissioner Taylor states the City of Worcester is using the money to hold the tax structure down and the area towns including CVSD should not be charged for their practices. The end result is the City of Worcester would need to reevaluate how they are charging outside towns. CVSD cannot pay the transmission fee. Commissioner Taylor would not mind being on radio with Jim Polito or Jordon Levy and perhaps going in a political direction will get people to listen. Customer Lennon commented that he can see the reason for the rate study but we do not know what we have for infiltration. Per the Superintendent it will involve a I & I project and all information will be provided to assist in the rate study. Rain increases flows and there is a need to find where the dead water is coming in. The Superintendent wants to show that our intentions are good. Commissioner DellaCava agrees and the customer is only going to listen to what the rate is. A customer suggested take the total amount and divide it amongst the customers. Treasurer Wood said flat rate is not fare from customer to customer. The company who does the rate study receives all the information and uses a formula with all this information. Per the Superintendent a rate increase was done once and 2 years ago and the recommendation was to increase rates yearly. Customer Buteau, inquired if there was an update from the attorney regarding a bankruptcy lawyer. Our attorney did reach out to find one that specializes in this who will be meeting with us at a later date. We were also told per Mass General Laws that we cannot file bankruptcy. Customer Buteau wanted to add that there is no golden parachute to save the CVSD and to not let the DEP take control of CVSD. Commissioner DellaCava commented to let the City of Worcester pick up CV to help the 420 customers. Per the Superintendent we previously met with the city and was told they would not do this. Commissioner DellaCava suggests that there be another meeting at the January 28th selectman meeting. Commissioner Taylor motioned to approve the rate study.

- V. Commissioner DellaCava seconds the motion and to not exceed the \$7,500.00. All in favor. Approved.

.

## VI. ADMINISTRATION

- A. **238-240 Main Street Refund** – The owner of the said property contacted us to inform us he is never been connected to sewer and for the past 10 years the property owner paid the bills. An investigation was performed of the property and it is not tied into the public system and has its own septic. Commissioner Taylor questioned if the property 1-3 Bottomly is tied into public sewer. Per our records it is not. Claims if not connected that would mean 6 units between the 2 properties is going into 1 septic and septic not large enough for this. Commissioners are doubtful that both properties are going into the 1 pool. Customer Buteau wondered if it meets Board of Health requirements. Commissioner Taylor wants reconfirmation that property is in fact not tied into public system and to do additional follow up with the board of health. Customer Buteau commented that there are statutes of limitations and suggests to the board that the owner be informed that there is a gathering a further information before a decision is

made. Commissioner Taylor motioned to further research. Seconded by Commissioner DellaCava. All in favor. Approved.

VII. OPERATIONS

A. **Superintendent's Report**

- a. **System Update** – Due to the weather we are not actively working manhole repairs. With the heavy increase of water of the flow meter November thru December we are actively working in cleaning it. Once better weather we get back on the manhole repairs.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. **UBWPAD Update** – Chairman Manseau received the new assessments. CVSD will see an increase of 33% or 35%. The calculations is an average of the prior 3yrs. Upper Blackstone take their expenses and flows divide it amongst the 7 towns. He also wanted it to be known that the other towns are also complaining.

Work is being wrapped up with project A, B and Route 20 construction.

B. **Congressman McGovern Meeting Update**

Per the Superintendent there was an unexpected uniformed meeting with the Town of Leicester, Senators & the DEP. We and other water districts were not invited. We were blind sited and ended up working way into the meeting to make presence. During the meeting the discussion was of consolidations of all districts that would require to do the study. To do the study all would need to be on board. There was a lot of confusion as to roles and responsibilities. Overall did not get a good feeling of CVSD being saved and with our rate study would allow improved leverage and Commissioner Taylor suggests by consolidating looks better in receiving funding. Senator Moore wants the Selectman to be more involved and this will be on the Selectman Agenda January 28<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm. The Superintendent suggests one of the Commissioners be in attendance not only as a Commissioner but as rate paying customer. Customer Buteau added that he did not know of the meeting until watching it on TV and caught it. He contacted the town hall to ask time and if he was allowed to attend. Congressman McGovern's office said if this study shows that the town should take over he asked the administrator if he would do that. The administrator could not give an answer to this at the time. Senator Moore commented he was at a different meeting with 40 people that the main topic was to complain of the water bills and no complaints of sewer bills. Together Customer Buteau and the Superintendent agree that there was not a positive message.

Commissioner Taylor questioned if we were to merge could we pump into ORSD. The Superintendent said it would be an estimated \$10 million and would DEP allow an inter basin transfer? Several roadblocks

IX. PERSONNEL –Appointment of Clerk – tabled for next meeting.

X. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- A. **Approval of Next Meeting Date** - Commissioner Taylor motioned to hold the next meeting on February 14, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. Seconded by Commissioner DellaCava. All in favor. Approved.

XI. ADJOURNMENT - Commissioner Taylor motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner DellaCava. All in favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.