

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
September 5, 2023
7:00 P.M.
CHERRY VALLEY & ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT - Hybrid

- I.** CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Chairman Levesque at 7:00 PM.

The following were in attendance:

Joseph McGinn, Commissioner	2 in person subscribers
Arthur E.J. Levesque, Chairman	
Benjamin Morris, Superintendent	1 online subscribers
Robert H. Lemieux, Sr., Commissioner	
Jennifer Wood, Treasurer – called in.	
Cheryl Balkus, Clerk	

- II.** District Member Forum – Chairman Levesque called the district member forum to begin. There were no questions or comments from the attending audience, listening audience or the commissioners. Commissioner Lemieux motions to close the district member forum seconded by Commissioner McGinn. All in favor. Approved.

III. APPROVE MINUTES

July 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes –Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the July 11, 2023, meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner McGinn. All in favor. Approved.

Commissioner McGinn asked to clarify in the meeting minutes under the finance section that there is a breakdown of the warrants and mentioned is West St. tax. Per Superintendent Morris, we pay the tax for this property up front, then the district receives reimbursement by the cell tower company. Commissioner McGinn under Operations report requested that the section regarding the amount of space above the vessels have either a comma or semicolon between not there.

IV. FINANCE

- A.** Approve July 17, 2023, Warrant
- B.** Approve July 24, 2023, Warrant
- C.** Approve July 31, 2023, Warrant
- D.** Approve August 7, 2023, Warrant
- E.** Approve August 14, 2023, Warrant
- F.** Approve August 21, 2023, Warrant
- G.** Approve August 28, 2023, Warrant
- H.** Approve September 4, 2023, Warrant

Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve all the above warrants. Seconded by Commissioner McGinn. All in favor. Approved.

- I.** July bank transfer – Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the July bank transfer of \$54,709.22 collected to the water collections account and transferred to the sewer checking account. Seconded by Commissioner McGinn. All in favor. Approved.

- J. August bank transfer – Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve from water to sewer collection account in the amount of \$62,943.09. Seconded by Commissioner McGinn. All in favor. Approved.

As a reminder this is money that is collected by the Water District on behalf of the Sewer District. This is not the Water Districts money.

- K. Treasurer report – Per Superintendent Morris from a previous request from the Commissioners was to provide a financial update to show where the district is at now that we are two months into the new budget year. Commissioner Lemieux suggested that it show that we are on target, above or below.

V. Administration – Nothing to discuss.

VI. Operations

Per Superintendent Morris valve exercising completed. There were 80 valves completed in 5 days. Did have some with hardened asphalt that took some time but resolved the issues.

The Lead Service Line inventory with Tata & Howard still ongoing.

At the beginning of August Stiles Co and R E Ericson did calibration of meters. All has been done except Worcester and this is to be planned with them in the future. We would like to do it on our own, but we can't just go into their area and shut off the valve to put in the port.

Commissioner Levesque inquired about the defective meter. Per the Superintendent is still awaiting test results.

National Grid started their tree work on the driveway. This is all part of their hazard mitigation program. These are trees that are in jeopardy of falling on the power lines.

Forest Management Program – It is an ongoing plan. The Superintendent applied for stewardship with DCR. They will pay our forester to do the plan once approved. There is 180 acres to walk, mark out and tag select trees. This is to improve conditions and they will pay the district for the trees that they cut.

The new auditor Mark Stought was in last week collecting a lot of data, he will be meeting with our former auditor Spinelli to get information. A new auditor was selected because the former is unable to provide the services that will be required. He will be reaching out to each of the commissioners.

Fall hydrant flushing to begin. Notices were sent out with the September 1 bills.

Hydrants on route 9 need to have bolts replaced with stainless steel bolts. The current ones in place have significant salt corrosion.

The district's 15-year-old bill stuffing machine has stopped working. Parts have become obsolete. Replacement to purchase is \$10,000. They offer a lease to purchase program that includes a maintenance plan and stated this is the best option to do the lease to purchase that will be about \$300.00 per month and this will be a split with the sewer district.

We have not received an update about the One Stop Grant for the Sargent St. project.

We had a lightning strike a couple of weeks ago. We never lost power and we shut everything down then put everything back up and all appeared to be working fine that day. The next morning when ready to start everything back up the system reported several thousands of gallons of water when it was off. A technician was brought in and replaced a PLC module. The well is up and running and handling fine. Per Subscriber Kevin Bergin from his experience while serving on the board this has happened many times before and there is nothing that can handle a direct strike.

Arsenic was detected in between the vessels; we have an in-house testing kit to monitor, we are still in compliance on the finished side and want to ensure that this is not an issue. It could have just been an anomaly.

Had been in conversation with two solar companies to explore solar on the pond. Henshaw Pond is the only pond in Leicester that is a great pond. Because of this Mass General Law will not permit it to do solar on the pond. A couple of other towns in the Commonwealth challenged this and they were also denied. Per Commissioner McGinn this falls under the water resources commission. The commission itself consists of heads of various agencies. Any kind of activity would need to be presented and performed. If the agency deemed it is enough it could be a multiyear process and at a high financial cost. Per Superintendent Morris he will continue researching ground mount and roof mount.

Commissioner McGinn asked about the hydrant issues – Per the Superintendent met with the Fire Chief and (LWS) Leicester Water Supply. Commissioner McGinn asked if there is a specific memorandum for the hydrants and per the Superintendent there is just a letter that the town purchases and the districts will maintain them. Per Commissioner McGinn when applying for a grant look to who ownership would be of the hydrants. When the grant is awarded, it is the water utility who would have ownership and may need to have legal involved.

Subscriber Buteau asked about solar if we spoke with New England Water Works. Per the Superintendent not yet was concentrating on the floating solar and since we are not able to do this will be going back to following up with New England Water Works.

- VII.** Date of Next Meeting: Commissioner Lemieux motions to have the next hybrid meeting October 3, 2023, at the district office at 7:00 P.M. Seconded by Commissioner McGinn. All in Favor. Approved.
- VIII.** Adjournment: Commissioner Lemieux motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner McGinn. All in Favor. Approved. The meeting ended at 8:12 P.M.