

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 14, 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	1 in person subscriber
Arthur E.J. Levesque, Chairman	
Benjamin Morris, Superintendent	0 - online subscribers
Robert H. Lemieux, Sr., Commissioner - late	
Jennifer Wood, Treasurer	
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 subscriber or the commissioners. Commissioner McGinn motions to close the district member forum seconded by Chairman Levesque. All in favor. Approved.

**III.** APPROVE MINUTES

October 3, 2023, Meeting Minutes –Commissioner McGinn motions to approve the October 3, 2023, meeting minutes. Seconded by Chairman Levesque. All in favor. Approved.

**IV.** FINANCE

- A.** Approve October 9, 2023, Warrant
- B.** Approve October 16, 2023, Warrant
- C.** Approve October 23, 2023, Warrant
- D.** Approve October 30, 2023, Warrant
- E.** Approve November 6, 2023, Warrant
- F.** Approve November 13, 2023, Warrant

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

Per Commissioner Lemieux requested for the record that a warrant of Sept 5, 2023, was originally approved at a previous meeting that was signed and misplaced.

- G.** October bank transfers - Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the transfer from the water checking account in the amount of \$58,399.35 to the sewer checking account. Seconded by Commissioner McGinn. All in favor. Approved.
- H.** Treasurer Report - Per Treasurer Wood discussed and presented report of the district's budget as of 10-31-2023. Total spent to date \$389,091.43. Commissioner McGinn asked if there were any line items being overrun. Per the Treasurer not at this time however technologies could because we had to purchase a new bill stuffing machine.

Commissioner McGinn asked what lab we use for testing. Per Superintendent Morris Microbac Laboratories in Ct.

- I. Investments – Information from Bartholomew & Company provided to the board. The district money currently sits in a money market account and can invest in a Treasury Account. As an example, if the district took 1 million there is a \$2,000.00 fee and the return would be \$52,000.00 where leaving it in the money market account would only be \$16,000.00.

Subscriber Buteau asked if this is secured. Per Treasurer Wood this is one of the safest and backed by the US Government. If we don't pull the money early, then the district is not penalized. Bartholomew & Company is a well-known company that many municipalities use in the Commonwealth. The district's current balance is \$1.7 million. Per the Treasurer spoke about investing \$1 million and splitting it up over different time periods. Currently we do not have a stabilization account. Per Superintendent Morris, this was discussed and presented by Bartholomew 4 or 5 years ago and at that time the board did not have an interest and did not know the reason why the board was not in favor. Commissioner McGinn commented with EPA regarding Lead & Copper and PFAS that it makes sense to retain that fund to make the best yield as possible in anticipation that this is coming down the road in the next 5 years. If we do take portions of it over increments and would be inclined to pursue further. He asked if there were any other companies out there like them. Per Treasurer Wood they have been the only company that has been at meetings she has attended the representative would also be available to present and answer any other questions. Per Commissioner McGinn we may want to propose some in a municipal account and another amount in a stabilization account, that the latter of the 2 will require a vote at the annual meeting and there is no point in depriving the district. It is almost a waste not to do it. He would be very interested in a firm proposal. Per Treasurer Wood under mass law you can have your money in a Treasury for up to 1 year. The Bartholomew Representative suggested to do time intervals some in 3 months, some 6 months etc.. and have a rotation.

Commissioner Lemieux is in favor of and motioned to table this so that the board can review the information received and discuss it at the next meeting. Treasurer Wood and Superintendent Morris requested from the board that any questions be given to Treasure before the next meeting to get any answers for them. Seconded by Commissioner McGinn. All in favor. Approved.

## V. Administration

- A. Service Renewal Application - Commissioner McGinn motions to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in favor. Approved.
- B. New Service Application – Commissioner McGinn motions to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in favor. Approved.
- C. Treasurer Test – For the last 3 years Treasurer Wood has been attending treasurer classes and has successfully passed the test and is now a Certified Municipal Treasurer!

## **VI.** Operations – Superintendent Morris

If anyone reads something on social media or hears otherwise, Tata & Howard has sent out letters to investigate lead service lines. This is legitimate and a formality to finalize the project. It is to check if there is a lead service line coming onto the home, that may require it to be replaced. There are 107 dwellings that will need to be checked by them. The deadline is October 2024.

A Booster pump for the well had a bad bearing that is 100% warranty. It is still able to run while we await replacement.

Submitted a grant through the insurance company to upgrade security cameras.

Placed sample tap at Greenville. It was beyond repair.

Tree cutting completed and as a result considerable damage to the swale that has been fixed.

Forest management plan draft should be sent over in the next week.

Solar: Started working with Power Options (nonprofit energy provider.) Had been unsuccessful getting anywhere to other companies. A meeting to be held soon as to what will be the best option.

Working on all winter maintenance, did system wide leak detection. Route 9 hydrants had rotted out bolts and replaced all.

We were not selected for The One Stop grant that we applied for to try and cover the cost of the water main on Sargent St. A follow-up has been sent asking what we can do better. Awaiting a response from them why we were not awarded this money.

The article was created and voted on at the Annual Meeting to fund the project even if we did not receive the grant. The Superintendent asked the board do they want to move forward. The estimated cost is \$330,000.00. If we were to start it would be put out to bid January, February and work would probably begin March/April. The money was already set aside for this we hoped that we would get the grant to offset.

The water meter that was sent out to be tested was within range badger said that there was internal damage and came back more favorable towards the customer. The report from badger to inconclusive and we credited the customer.

**VII.** Date of Next Meeting: Commissioner Lemieux motions to have the next hybrid meeting December 19, 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 8:20 P.M.