

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
HYBRID MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 19, 2022  
7:00 P.M.  
CHERRY VALLEY & ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT**

- I.** CALL TO ORDER - The meeting called to order by Chairman Bergin  
@ 7:03 pm

The following were in attendance:

Kevin Bergin, Chairman	LCAC
Arthur E.J. Levesque, Commissioner	1 in person 2 – listening audience
Benjamin Morris, Superintendent	
Robert H. Lemieux, Sr., Commissioner	
Jennifer Wood, Treasurer	
Cheryl Balkus, Clerk	

- II.** **District Member Forum** – There were no questions or comments from the Commissioners, the attending audience, or the listening audience. Commissioner Levesque motions to end the district member forum. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved. The forum ended at 2 minutes and 53 seconds.

**III. APPROVE MINUTES**

- A. April 5, 2022, Meeting Minutes** - Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the April 5, 2022 meeting minutes. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

**IV. FINANCE**

- A. Approve April 11, 2022, Warrants** – Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the April 11, 2022, warrants. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

- B. Approve April 18, 2022, Warrants-** Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the April 18, 2022, warrants. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in favor. Approved.

The summary of warrants consists of office expense, technology, motor vehicle, payroll, heat, phone, insurance, City of Worcester \$22,318.47, and meters for a total of: \$52,954.12.

- C. Budget Approval** – Per Superintendent Morris there are no changes of the budget since last meeting. There is a \$66,287.81 decrease from the previous year budget. Nothing is standing out that requires further adjusting and confident to be able to work with these changes. May be additional savings once the well is activated and not purchasing as much water from the City of Worcester.

Commissioner Lemieux asked if made adjustment on findings of costs of materials. Per the Superintendent he has. Some suppliers did not provide us with increases. Fitting materials has seen four fluctuations in pricing and buffered for this and prepared for 10-15% increases.

Comment from Subscriber Buteau, that for those line items that have in the service agreement that in paragraph 5 you do not have to redo the agreement to make changes. It has been done at least 3 times and just a comment. Per Commissioner Lemieux the understanding is that with time constraint with the annual meeting it would not be possible to make changes before the annual and per the Superintendent this will not be overlooked. It will be reviewed of cost sharing and come back with a joint meeting prior to next year's meeting to make the changes.

Subscriber Buteau suggests that the board have a discussion amongst themselves and then have a meeting with the sewer district. Commissioner Lemieux confirms that the Superintendent will come up with a plan and meet to sit jointly and an agreement of changes. Subscriber Buteau to stress that it is about fairness. There were no questions or comments from the listening audience. Per Commissioner Levesque would like to see that this be resolved and not last minute. Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the draft budget in the amount of \$1,264,993.09. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in Favor. Approved.

## **V. ADMINISTRATION –**

### **A. Warrant Articles Approval –**

Article 1 -7 are boiler plate housekeeping type articles.

Article 8 Purchase Vehicle is to have the wording of “not to exceed.” If the article is approved, we can potentially get a 2022 immediately and if a 2023 we will be waiting 20-24 months.

Article 9 The heating system article we are appropriating \$45,000 cash. The Superintendent is waiting for the third quote. The \$45,000 will cover everything to ensure all costs are covered. Mass save would be paying approximately 25% towards this.

Articles 8,9,10 all would come out of free cash and bring it down to \$395,000.00. If we did the construction part of the project that would be an additional \$185,000 and leaving only \$210,000.00 in free cash. The prior rate consultant suggested not going below \$350,000 in free cash and Chairman Bergin is not comfortable being below \$350,000 because it is too easy to get in trouble with the costs if major repairs.

The heating for heating and cooling most cost efficient. We have reached out to 38 degrees for additional solar credits and has reached out to the Mass Save representative to speak with regarding additional solar being placed on the property. With the upgrade we will no longer be purchasing 4,000 gallons of oil and the boiler is past its time. Commissioner Lemieux disappointed about the geothermal system and ideally would like to see it this way and for the vehicle purchase asked if we can have used or new. Per the Superintendent with new we need to go to the state contractor to purchase a used requires more to put out to bid and to ensure we get what we need. A public process to go through because we are recognized as a municipality. Per Commissioner Lemieux in doing some homework there are occasions where a used pre certified can be found a year old and \$20,000 less than the new retail F350 with a plow and it seems that because of a technicality it could cost us more. Per the Superintendent criteria set by the state, makes it at a reduced rate and streamlined. Commissioner Lemieux is proposing a dealer purchase, not a corner lot car business.

Article 10 needs the engineering costs of the Sargent St Project. Then the project would be fully ready to go out to bid in next 1-2 years and perhaps will have a grant to pay for the construction.

Subscriber Buteau had comment with Article 8: There is 2 water district trucks and 1 sewer truck and unfair to those ratepayers in the water district or are not in any sewer district and about used vehicle states other water district do this and finds out what is available and has been done.

He asked if with Sargent St if there was a time frame provided. Per the Superintendent there was not. They will not spend the time unless they know if we have the money to do the project. There is a lot of infrastructure in the Sargent St area that will be taken into consideration to make the connections work.

Per Subscriber Buteau added comment the more you can show, it's something to consider. The application must be in by June to show that it's a critical supply to housing and may be able to get the funding.

There were no questions from the listening audience. Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the warrants articles as presented and discussed. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

**B. Water Usage Restriction Notice – Begins May 1 through September 30, 2022**

Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the water usage restriction. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in favor. Approved.

Per Chairman Bergin we receive our water from the City of Worcester, and this is because of our permit we have for Henshaw Pond. We are not taking water from the pond, but we need to have the restriction.

**VI. Operations**

**A. Superintendent's Report –** Baystate Contractors continue to work on well. A temporary line in and successful in prime and activation. An 80-foot water line was flushed out that was sitting for 6 1/2 years. Everything is watertight and no leaks. Concrete pad installed and pump moved. Electrician here to do wiring, R.E. Ericson to get Scada controls to the high lifts and booster pumps. Will then do the intertwining of the well. No delays mentioned and moving forward. We should see it live by mid-June and spend next two months automated. The company who knows about the system will be brought in to do training for the Operators and the Superintendent.

Terminations began today there were a total of thirty-three accounts. Ten accounts have been terminated.

The district holds a lease for a cell tower and receives \$1,800.00 per month with a yearly 3% increase. Every so often we will get a let's buy out the lease notice and this is 1<sup>st</sup> time the Superintendent received a buyout price of \$390,000.00. He wanted to bring it to the attention to the board. He will locate the current contract and provide it to the board for review. There were no additional comments from the board or the listening audience.

Subscriber Buteau asked about possible rate reduction. Per the Superintendent now that we have budget approval, he and the Treasurer will revisit this to discuss this at the next meeting.

**VII. Communications –** Subscriber Buteau did the district receive the Leicester water letter to Weston & Sampson. Per the Superintendent he believes all commissioners have received it and if they have not, he will email it to them.

**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, May 10, 2022, at either the Town Hall or 148 Henshaw St Leicester, MA @ 7:00 PM. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

**X. ADJOURNMENT-** Commissioner Levesque motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 P.M.

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