

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

October 6, 2020

7:00 P.M.

CHERRY VALLEY & ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT

- I. CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bergin @ 7:00 PM

The following were in attendance:

Kevin Bergin, Chairman

6 - Subscribers

Arthur Paquette - LCAC

Arthur E.J. Levesque, Commissioner

Benjamin Morris, Superintendent

Robert H. Lemieux, Sr., Commissioner

Jennifer Wood, Treasurer

Cheryl Balkus, Clerk

- II. **District Member Forum** – There were no questions or comment during the District Member Forum. Commissioner Levesque motions to suspend the District Member Forum. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. The District Member Forum ended at 7 minutes 49 seconds.

III. **APPROVE MINUTES**

- A. **September 15, 2020** - Commissioner Lemieux motioned to approve the minutes of September 15, 2020. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

IV. **FINANCE**

- A. **Approve September 21, 2020 Warrants** – Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the September 21, 2020 warrants. Seconded by Commissioner Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.
- B. **Approve September 28 Warrants**- Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the September 28, 2020 warrants. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in Favor. Approved.
- C. **Approve October 5, 2020 Warrants** - Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the October 5, 2020 warrants. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.
The summary of the warrants consists of postage, paychecks, retirement, technology, pipes, phone, motor vehicle expenses, legal \$229.50 City of Worcester \$33,338.19, consulting fees, service agreement, insurance
Total \$88,611.62
- D. **September Bank Transfer** – Commissioner Levesque motions to approve the transfer of \$79,621.74 from the water checking account to the sewer checking account. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

This is the money that the Water District collects on behalf of the Sewer District so that they can run their District.

V. ADMINISTRATION

A. CMRPC (Central Mass Regional Planning Commission (CBG Opportunity) – Per Superintendent Morris the Town of Leicester opened an avenue to look at grants. Spoke with the representative to cover a large area such as an entire community. We will need to do an income survey for the entire water district. Superintendent Morris is interested and wanted to inform the Board that we will put the survey in with the bills to get the information and see if we can get enough feedback to get the community block grant. We will need at least 300 responses for the number of customers that we have. It is the same survey that was done in the past door to door that was not a success. This will be done via electronically via survey monkey. If paper is submitted the information will be collected and entered. There is no expense to the District to set this up.

VI. Operations

A. Superintendent's Report – Per Superintendent Morris they were able to finalize the Valve Exercising Program of Zone 2. Next to transition to the Rochdale Section of approximately 85 Valves.

Drought condition still in effect. City of Worcester announced and may need to implement more restrictions.

Usage is same as previous months average of 220,000 gallons per day. No drastic drop or increase.

One of our trucks the 2006 Ford F350, identified the utility body is starting to rot off the truck. He did not notice it until he had to go under the truck to get something and identified the issue. The steel body is rotting off and could have the potential of it falling off and or losing equipment. It was fixed 4- 5 years ago for \$2,000.00. Four years later a worse condition. He priced out aluminum flat beds and believes can do the conversation for just over \$5,500 and continue shop around. The issue with the \$5,500 is it cannot be taken out of motor vehicle expense as this covers fuel, oil changes, small engine equipment, all was spent but \$700 last year. To take the \$5,500 would put this line item in jeopardy and believes the best option is to take out of the reserve. The recommendation is to fix and if not try to limp it thru till spring and perhaps replace the entire truck.

Commissioner Lemieux asked why recommended replacing the whole truck in the Spring. Per the Superintendent it is 14 years old and would rather spend it on an asset that would last above and beyond, there is approximately 100,000 miles on the truck, Frame wise it appears to be a sound vehicle. Per the Superintendent a Long Box on a flatbed would be user friendly, aluminum less expensive and lasts longer. Utility body would not be as favorable and needs to know if he has approval to use the Reserve Account to purchase.

Commissioner Lemieux asked if there is there a plan in place for maintaining, replacing it and inspection in place that are being inspected? Per Superintendent Morris we have not purchased a vehicle since 2015. Quarterly they are serviced, the company checks the tires, grease fittings, mechanically being looked at. Also,

the guys will do weekly checks. Per Commissioner Lemieux recommendation is to get in touch with town auto bodies shops to inspect the vehicles in the next month to provide an analysis of the vehicles we have. If everything is solid the trucks can be run forever and can get more than 200,000. This is just from preventative maintenance and to ensure that we will get several more years out of the truck.

Commissioner Lemieux motions to have the Superintendent have the trucks inspected by local a body facility, with a report on each one and then decide to move on the \$5,500 expenditure. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in Favor. Approved.

Per the Superintendent he researched information on the water & sewer utilities in town and speculation is all have been put on by us. In total in the Spring were 9 liens. Of these 4 in Cherry Valley, 3 in Rochdale and 2 in North Oxford. Since May three are paid in full the remainder are 6 vacant properties.

Subscriber Greg Buteau – status of the Grindstone Well and if we furnished everything to Tata & Howard and not hold them up? Per Superintendent Morris the water district has given everything. Their engineering has been in and out to get what they need to do on their end. Grindstone media is being researched by the Superintendent to save the district costs.

As for the uranium side he has reached out to Lawry, the Media in place is out of date, they recommend flowing water through it to test where it is but in the end it will need to be replaced. The Superintendent is going to see if we can extract in house and how to take care of disposal. It is a slow-moving process and working forward on it.

Per Subscriber Buteau asked about the well pump. He said that the pump might be 15-18 years old and is there a need to pull the pump and have it evaluated for any improvements. It would be sad if the project is completed, having savings of \$10,000 per month and then the pump goes down. He wondered if Tata & Howard is to do this as part of the contract. Per Superintendent Morris, Paul at Tata & Howard has gone back and forth on and availability of funding in the project would like to do. The Superintendent knows a local company that does wells and if available in project costs will have him do the evaluation. Subscriber Buteau appreciative that the Superintendent would like to do it. Per Chairman Bergin he believes that the well pump was replaced due to a lightning strike but does not think it is an original pump. Per the Superintendent he recalls that the transducer probe was replaced, does not think it is not the original pump.

Commissioner Levesque asked if the new staff members brought on board have done the Conflict of Interest. Per the Superintendent this is done every 2 years and will look into it.

Commissioner Lemieux wanted to know if there is a follow up to the one bill one vote. Per the Superintendent Representative Leboeuf was supposed to have info back from the State House this week but did not have any particulars at this time. He is waiting in his end of legal counsel.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS – Subscriber Greg Buteau asked who he should contact about Go to Meeting and having difficulty signing in. Per Treasurer Wood he can contact her.

VIII. PERSONNEL – Nothing to Report

IX. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A. Approval of Next Meeting - Commissioner Levesque motioned to hold the next Virtual Meeting Tuesday, October 20, 2020 @ 7:00 PM. Seconded by Chairman Bergin. All in favor. Approved.

X. ADJOURNMENT- Commissioner Lemieux motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Levesque. All in Favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 P.M.

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