

1963

2026

Cherry Valley Sewer District



Annual Report

June 30, 2026

Cherry Valley Sewer District
61st Annual Report

Greetings:

The Board of Sewer Commissioners respectfully submits its 61st Annual Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

The Commissioners are pleased to report that 458 properties that are currently connected to the sewer system.

The Cherry Valley Sewer District operates its system by transporting wastewater through the City of Worcester to the Upper Blackstone Wastewater Treatment Facility, where it is treated and discharged into the Blackstone River. This method, approved by District voters in 2001, remains the most cost-effective approach for wastewater transport and treatment. The City of Worcester assesses a transportation fee for sewage conveyed through its system, while Upper Blackstone applies a treatment fee for processing that wastewater.

District staff continue to work diligently to address system issues as they arise. Monitoring and managing sewer flows has remained a priority for several years. Staff regularly evaluates system performance and implements adjustments to reduce flows that are not part of normal operations. In coordination with the Leicester Department of Public Works, the District has completed sewer manhole repairs aligned with roadway paving projects. Additional repairs are being conducted in areas showing deterioration and clear signs of inflow and infiltration.

Daily flow rates into Worcester determine the District's quarterly billing. These flows have become more manageable due to ongoing inspection efforts and inflow/infiltration (I/I) mitigation work. I/I refer to non-wastewater sources, such as groundwater or stormwater, entering the sewer system—costs that are ultimately borne by ratepayers. To reduce these impacts, staff routinely inspects and rehabilitates compromised manhole structures.

The District has partnered with DPC Engineering to secure a MassDEP grant focused on comprehensive asset management of the sewer collection system. This initiative expands upon the prior asset inventory completed with RCAP. Through this project, the District evaluated piping and manhole infrastructure to support both asset management and I/I reduction efforts.

The District was awarded \$112,060.14 in funding, including approximately \$60,000 in grant funds, with the remaining balance covered through District contributions and in-kind services. To offset local costs, the District applied for \$25,000 from a Town of Leicester ARPA grant, made possible due to overlapping project scopes, including system-wide smoke testing.

Over the past year, District staff collaborated with DPC Engineering to complete smoke testing across the entire system, scan manholes, and conduct camera inspections of sewer lines. This project has now been successfully completed.

The Commissioners and District staff remain committed to addressing the challenges facing the system and to identifying effective, sustainable solutions for ratepayers. Future system expansion may help distribute costs more broadly and provide financial relief to existing users.

Residents with questions are encouraged to contact the District office, where staff are available to provide assistance.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Commissioner's,

Benjamin Morris
Superintendent

**CHERRY VALLEY SEWER DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 138
ROCHDALE, MA 01542
ANNUAL MEETING
WARRANT**

To: Cheryl Balkus, District Clerk
Cherry Valley Sewer District

Greetings:

You are hereby directed to notify the Voters of the Cherry Valley Sewer District to meet in the Town Hall Auditorium, 3 Washburn Square, Leicester, Massachusetts Thursday, and the 28th day of May 2026 at 7:00 P.M. then and there to act on the following:

ARTICLE 1: MODERATOR

To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting and for a period of one (1) year thereafter.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the clerk of the District declares that the polls are open to cast ballots for the election of moderator for a term of one (1) year.

DESCRIPTION:

This article is an annual procedural article as the Moderator is the individual that will preside over tonight's meeting as well as the beginning of the 2027 Annual Meeting at which time the process is repeated.

ARTICLE 2: REPORTS

To act on reports of the District.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the District vote to accept the Reports of the District as printed in the 2026 Annual Report, which is in the hands of the voters present.

DESCRIPTION:

The printed report of the Commissioners provides the District members with an annual update of the District's activities during fiscal year 2026 and the report of the District Treasurer provides the District members with an update of the District's audited activity during fiscal year ending 2025.

ARTICLE 3: COMMISSIONER

To elect a Sewer Commissioner for a term of three (3) years.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the Clerk of the District declares that the polls are open to cast ballots for the election of Commissioner for a term of three (3) years.

DESCRIPTION:

The Board of Sewer Commissioners has three members each serving a three-year term.

The winner of the election will take effect when the annual meeting closed. Absent any directive in bylaw or enabling act.

ARTICLE 4: BUDGET

To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of money from any available means, for the operating budget for Fiscal Year 2027, to provide for the District's annual operating requirements, including but not limited to, salaries, related services, office expenses, maintenance, construction and other items related thereto: to execute any instruments or documents necessary or appropriate to accomplish said purposes: and to take any other action thereon.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the District vote to appropriate from available funds (sewer revenue), the sum of \$792,505.91 (seven hundred ninety two thousand five hundred and five dollars and ninety one cents) and transfer from free cash \$140,000 (one hundred and forty thousand dollars) for a total of \$932,505.91 (nine hundred thirty two dollars five hundred and five dollars and ninety one cents.) for the operating budget of Fiscal Year 2027, to provide for the District's annual operating requirements, including but not limited to, salaries, related services, office expenses, maintenance and construction.

DESCRIPTION:

This article funds the fiscal year 2027 operating budget, which includes funding all operations of the District, debt service payments, transportation costs (City of Worcester and Upper Blackstone).

ARTICLE 5: REVOLVING FUND FOR CONSTRUCTION

To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Sewer Commissioners to establish a fund to receive and deposit fee paid pursuant to Chapter 33 of the Acts of 1998, and, from which expenditures may be made by the Board of Sewer Commissioners for legal services, administrative services and engineering services, (including but not limited to, design, plan review, and inspection of the project being constructed) in connection with any sewer system design, review, and construction, or take any action thereon.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the District vote to authorize the Board of Sewer Commissioners to establish a fund to receive and deposit fees paid pursuant to Chapter 33 of the Acts of 1998, and, from which expenditures may be made by the Board of Sewer Commissioners for legal services, administrative services and engineering services (including but not limited to, design, plan review, and inspection of the project being constructed) in connection with any sewer system design, review, and construction.

DESCRIPTION:

This article establishes a "revolving account for review of new construction projects within the service area of the district". It provides the means for the District to collect funds from the proposer of the new construction project to pay costs including but not limited to, design, plan review, and inspection of the project being constructed and associated with new construction projects with no impact on the FY27 operating budget and no expense to the district rate payers.

For Example, if a new development came into the district our engineer has to review the plans to make sure it will allow us to supply sewer connections to the new development. This warrant article allows us to collect the fees from the new development in order to pay our engineering fees, so the cost is not absorbed by the district subscribers.

ARTICLE 6 – FUNDING STABILIZATION ACCOUNT

To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or free cash, or otherwise provide a sum of money, or any other sum, from any available funding source or by available means to fund the Sewer stations fund accounts.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the District transfer \$40,000 from free cash and move it to the Sewer Stations fund account.

DESCRIPTION:

This will fund the Sewer Stations stabilization account.

ARTICLE 7: USE OF STABILIZATION ACCOUNT

To see if the District will allow the use of the Sewer Stations fund Stabilization account if any issues arise including but not limited to costs associated with pumps, motors, drives and communication equipment that are outside the normal operational repairs.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the District be allowed to use up to \$30,000 out of the Sewer Stations Stabilization account on items such as but not limited to pumps, motors, drives, and communication equipment in the District's Sewer Stations.

DESCRIPTION:

This allows the District to authorize the board to use the funds that are set aside for Sewer Stations. THIS REQUIRES A 2/3 VOTE.

ARTICLE 8 – CLOSE OUT OF PRIOR PROJECTS

To see if the district will vote to close-out the below projects that were previously approved at prior annual Sewer District Meetings.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move that the district close out the SSO Grant and Purchase of truck articles and return to the general fund the unused funds appropriated for said projects in the amount of:

SSO Grant -	\$50,625.00
Purchase of Truck -	\$7,868.95
Total:	\$58,493.95

DESCRIPTION:

These projects were completed, and these are the remaining funds left in each account. The article will move the money back into the general fund.

You are hereby directed to give notice of this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof at two public places within the limits of the Cherry Valley Sewer District and with the Clerk of the Town of Leicester seven days before the time of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 6th of May 2026.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Donald G. Manseau, Chairman

Cheryl Balkus
Clerk-Cherry Valley Sewer District

Robert H. Lemieux, Sr. Commissioner

(SEAL)

Peter Cusolito, Commissioner

**Cherry Valley Sewer District
FY'27 Budget**

Operating Expenses	FY 26		FY 27
Accounting	\$ 19,000.00		\$ 19,950.00
Allowance	\$ 7,500.00		\$ 7,500.00
Bank Fees	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
Consulting Fees	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00
Electricity	\$ 7,000.00		\$ 7,000.00
Field Supplies	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00
*Heat	\$ 1,320.00		
*Office Electricity	\$ 8,055.11		
Insurance	\$ 21,600.00		\$ 23,000.00
*Health Insurance	\$ 24,388.92		
*Workers Comp	\$ 1,200.00		
I & I			\$ 75,000.00
Legal	\$ 7,000.00		\$ 10,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
Mission / SCADA	\$ 4,327.00		\$ 4,327.00
*Motor Vehicle Expense	\$ 5,670.00		
*Office Supply	\$ 7,050.00		
*Officers' Salary	\$ 5,143.00		
*Payroll	\$ 95,014.17		
*Postage	\$ 3,480.00		
Repair/Maintenance	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 21,000.00
Sub Contracts	\$ 24,150.00		\$ 26,250.00
*Technology	\$ 32,670.00		
*Telephone	\$ 1,635.00		
Transport./Treatment Expenses	\$ 270,994.30		\$ 270,994.30
UBWPAD	\$ 82,098.00		\$ 84,092.00
*Water Service agreement			\$186,973.61
Operating Expense	\$ 663,695.50	#	\$ 750,486.91
Reserve Account	\$ 20,000.00		\$20,000.00
Capital	\$ 20,000.00		\$20,000.00
Debt Service	\$ 142,019.00		\$ 142,019.00
Total with Debt Service	\$ 845,714.50		\$ 932,505.91

***These line items have been moved to Water Service Agreement Line item.**

**Cherry Valley Sewer District
Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2025 and 2024**

CURRENT ASSETS:	2025	2024
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,078,459	\$ 847,719
Investments	653,844	628,112
Accounts Receivable	61,284	54,845
Intergovernmental Receivable	8,841	5,788
Sewer Betterment Receivable, Current Portion	67,419	55,978
Sewer Betterment Interest Receivable	13,008	2,005
Prepaid Expenses	7,856	25,522
Total Current Assets	1,890,711	1,619,969
NONCURRENT ASSETS:		
Sewer Betterment Receivable, Net of Current Portion	184,204	222,380
Right-of-Use Asset	10,682	13,112
Capital Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	2,578,223	2,965,265
Total Noncurrent Assets	2,773,109	3,200,757
TOTAL ASSETS	4,663,820	4,820,726
 LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND NET POSITION		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,347	\$ 7,213
Bonds Payable, Current Portion	116,506	115,068
Lease Liability, Current Portion	2,522	2,430
Accrued Interest	13,819	14,598
Total Current Liabilities	134,194	139,309
NONCURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Bonds Payable, Net of Current Portion	1,924,509	2,041,015
Lease Liability, Net of Current Portion	8,160	10,682
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	1,932,669	2,051,697
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,066,863	2,191,006
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES:		
Deferred Inflows Related to Pension	0	3,696
NET POSITION:		
Net Investment in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt	537,208	809,182
Restricted	117,099	0
Unrestricted	1,942,650	1,816,842
Total Net Position	2,596,957	2,626,024
TOTAL LIABILITES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND NET POSITION	\$ 4,663,820	\$ 4,820,726

**Cherry Valley Sewer District
Statement of Cash Flows
Year ending June 30, 2025 and 2024**

	2025	2024
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Cash Received from Customers	\$ 876,985	\$ 812,932
Cash Paid to Vendors	(478,304)	(588,900)
Cash Paid for Employee Benefits	(21,788)	(20,900)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	376,893	203,132
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of Capital Assets	(27,691)	(16,314)
Repayment of Bond Payable	(115,068)	(113,647)
Payment of Bond Interest	(26,951)	(28,372)
Net Cash Used by Capital and Related Financing	(169,710)	(158,333)
CASHFLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Interest Income	23,557	29,226
Purchase of Investments	0	(250,000)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Investing Activities	23,557	(220,774)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	230,740	(175,975)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - JULY 1	847,719	1,023,694
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - JUNE 30	\$ 1,078,459	\$ 847,719
Reconciliation of Changes in Net Position to		
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities:		
Operating Loss	(\$ 45,485)	(\$ 223,292)
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Income to Net Cash Provided by		
Operating Activities:		
Depreciation Expense	414,733	408,392
Pension Income	(3,696)	(4,253)
Grant Income (Expense)	(6,699)	37,814
(Increase) Decrease in:		
Accounts Receivable	(6,439)	(5,917)
Intergovernmental Receivable	(3,053)	23,236
Betterment Receivables	26,735	26,315
Betterment Interest Income Receivable	(11,003)	(2,005)
Prepaid Expenses	17,666	(18,670)
Increase (Decrease) in:		
Accounts Payable	(5,866)	6,623
Accrued Expenses	0	(45,111)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	376,893	203,132

Cherry Valley Sewer District
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Change in Net Position
Year ending June 30, 2025 and 2024

REVENUES:	2025	2024
User Receipts	\$ 844,411	\$ 703,040
Betterment Revenue	24,393	17,406
Other Operating Revenue	8,640	13,043
Total Revenues	877,444	733,489
 EXPENSES:		
City of Worcester Transport & Treatment Expense	200,886	242,720
Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District (UBWPAD)	76,176	73,625
Management Fee	81,528	82,728
Officer and Commissioner Salaries	5,143	5,143
Depreciation Expense	414,733	408,392
Employee Benefits Expense	18,092	16,647
Subcontractors	12,715	13,139
Supplies	1,984	297
Office Expense	9,025	7,889
Consulting	3,300	7,050
Utilities	13,846	14,491
Vehicle Expense	5,196	4,686
Insurance	15,352	17,734
Repairs and Maintenance	18,404	8,354
Accounting Fees	19,085	14,500
Legal Fees	0	716
Technology Expense	24,522	19,515
Monitoring Expense	2,942	2,961
Miscellaneous	0	16,194
Total Expenses	922,929	956,781
 OPERATING LOSS	 (45,485)	 (223,292)
 NON-OPERATING REVENUE (EXPENSES):		
Interest Income	49,289	44,230
Grant Income, Net of Expenses	(6,699)	37,814
Interest Expense	(26,172)	(28,784)
Total Non-Operating Revenue (Expenses)	16,418	53,260
 CHANGE IN NET POSITION	 (29,067)	 (170,032)
NET POSITION AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	2,626,024	2,796,056
NET POSITION AT END OF YEAR	\$ 2,596,957	\$ 2,626,024

**CHERRY VALLEY SEWER DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 138
ROCHDALE, MA 01542
ANNUAL MEETING
WARRANT**

To: Cheryl Balkus, District Clerk
Cherry Valley Sewer District

Greetings:

You are hereby directed to notify the Voters of the Cherry Valley Sewer District to meet in the Town Hall Auditorium, 3 Washburn Square, Leicester, Massachusetts Thursday, and the 22nd day of May 2025 at 7:00 P.M. then and there to act on the following:

ARTICLE 1: MODERATOR

A motion was made and seconded to nominate John Shocik as moderator for the 2025 meeting as well as the beginning of the 2026 Annual meeting.

VOTED: UNANIMOUS. APPROVED.

ARTICLE 2: REPORTS

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Reports of the District as printed in the 2025 Annual Report, which is in the hands of the voters present.

VOTED: UNANIMOUS. APPROVED.

ARTICLE 3: COMMISSIONER

A motion was made and seconded to nominate Robert Lemieux, for officer of commissioner for a term of three (3) years.

VOTED: UNANIMOUS. APPROVED.

ARTICLE 4: BUDGET

A motion was made and seconded to appropriate from available funds (sewer revenue), the sum of \$745,714.50 (seven hundred forty five thousand seven hundred fourteen dollars and fifty cents and transfer from free cash \$100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars) for a total of \$845,714.50 (eight hundred forty five thousand seven hundred fourteen dollars and fifty cents) for the operating budget of Fiscal Year 2026, to provide for the District's annual operating requirements, including but not limited to, salaries, related services, office expenses, maintenance and construction.

VOTED: UNANIMOUS. APPROVED

ARTICLE 5: REVOLVING FUND FOR CONSTRUCTION

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Board of Sewer Commissioners to establish a fund to receive and deposit fees paid pursuant to Chapter 33 of the Acts of 1998, and, from which expenditures may be made by the Board of Sewer Commissioners for legal services, administrative services and engineering services (including but not limited to, design, plan review, and inspection of the project being constructed) in connection with any sewer system design, review, and construction.

VOTED: UNANIMOUS. APPROVED.

ARTICLE 6: PURCHASE OF TRUCK

A motion was made and seconded to appropriate from free cash the amounts not to exceed eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000.00) to enable the District to purchase a new pickup truck equipped with, but not limited to, plow, and associated safety warning systems or to take any action thereon.

VOTED: 9 YES 1 NO. APPROVED.

ARTICLE 7: FEASIBILITY OF MERGING THE CHERRY VALLEY & ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT AND CHERRY VALLEY SEWER DISTRICT

A motion was made and seconded to skip over this article.

VOTED: UNANIMOUS. APPROVED.

ARTICLE 8: STABILIZATION ACCOUNT

A motion was made and seconded to establish a Sewer Stations fund account pursuant to Mass General Law Chapter 40 Section 5B.

VOTED: UNANIMOUS. APPROVED.

ARTICLE 9 – FUNDING STABILIZATION ACCOUNT

A motion was made and seconded to transfer \$40,000 from free cash and move it to the Sewer Stations fund account.

VOTED: UNANIMOUS. APPROVED.

ARTICLE 10: USE OF STABILIZATION ACCOUNT

A motion was made and seconded to allow the district to use up to \$30,000 out of the Sewer Stations Stabilization account on items such as but not limited to pumps, motors, drives, and communication equipment in the District’s Sewer Stations.

VOTED. UNANIMOUS. APPROVED.

You are hereby directed to give notice of this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof at two public places within the limits of the Cherry Valley Sewer District and with the Clerk of the Town of Leicester seven days before the time of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 17TH of April 2025.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Donald G. Manseau, Chairman

Robert H. Lemieux, Sr. Commissioner

Peter Cusolito, Commissioner

Cheryl Balkus
Clerk-Cherry Valley Sewer District

(SEAL)