

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
November 12, 2024
6:30 P.M.
CHERRY VALLEY & ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT - Hybrid

I. CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Chairman McGinn at 6:38 p. m.

The following were in attendance:

Joseph McGinn, Chairman	
Arthur E.J. Levesque, Commissioner - absent	1 - subscriber in attendance
Benjamin Morris, Superintendent	1 - online subscriber
Robert H. Lemieux, Sr., Commissioner – online	
Jennifer Wood, Treasurer	
Cheryl Balkus, Clerk	

II. District Member Forum – Per Commissioner Lemieux it is necessary and well deserved to thank Ben, Cheryl, Jen, the operators along with others that helped during the water main break kudos to all working together as a team and being resourceful getting things done and being cost efficient. Per Chairman McGinn also recognized all involved with the break, apologized if missed anyone and many thanks to all. There were no further questions or comments from the listening or attending audience. Commissioner Lemieux motioned to end the District Member Forum. Seconded by Chairman McGinn. All in favor. Approved.

III. APPROVE MINUTES

October 8, 2024, Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the October 8, 2024, minutes. Seconded by Chairman McGinn. All in favor. Approved.

IV. FINANCE

A. Approve 10/14/2024, 10/21/2024, 10/28/2024, 11/4/2024 & 11/11/2024 Warrants

Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve all the above warrants. Seconded by Chairman McGinn. The total cost of the warrants is \$267,553.24. All in favor. Approved.

B. October bank transfer – Commissioner Lemieux motions to transfer from the water checking account to the sewer account in the amount of \$70,473.24. Seconded by Chairman McGinn. All in Favor. Approved.

C. Treasurer Report – Per Treasurer Wood expenditures to date \$481,646.04.
Remaining balance \$832,066.66, balance after reimbursements \$873,083.14

	beginning	expenditures	balance
Lead Service Line Inventory	110,000	61,622.11	48,377.89
Sargent St Water Line	330,000	233,014.53	96,985.47
Muni link	22,000	21,175.00	825.00
Fire alarm & Security upgrades	5,000	3,691.46	1,308.54
Security Cameras	4,000.00		4,000.00
OBEP	53,761.00	53,761.00	-
Stabilization account	30,000.00	21,905.00	8,095.00
Kettlebrook Water Main Design	50,000.00	10,933.92	39,066.08
Financial Planning forecast	50,000.00	13,006.25	36,993.75

Water revenue to date \$439,521.99, SBA rentals \$7,894.40, Liens \$615.19, Reimbursements \$48,465.80, Real Estate taxes \$1,895.69.

The district is in the positive by approximately \$11,000.00. For as more detailed report available upon request.

V. Administrative

- A. Emergency Leak Declaration** – Per Commissioner Lemieux I move that the Board of Commissioners vote to declare an Emergency Disaster Exemption as per the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 31, to use certified free cash to pay all costs associated with the repairs of the water leak in the swamp located off of Peter Salem Rd and said emergency is to avoid the potential adverse effects to public health and safety.

This is necessary for the district to employ available free cash to use as primary source of funds to pay for the water leak repairs in the swamp off Peter Salem Rd and is required per the Department of Revenue. Commissioner Lemieux motions the board – seconded by Chairman McGinn. All in Favor. Approved.

Per Treasurer Wood we need to now write a letter to DOR, they will send it back and we can then present it at the next Annual Meeting.

- B. Stabilization account transfer** – Per Superintendent Morris board approval is required to transfer the money for the media invoice in the amount of \$21,905.00. This is for a formality. Commissioner Lemieux motions to transfer from the stabilization account to pay for the filtration's media. Seconded by Chairman McGinn. All in favor. Approved.
- C. Solar** – Previously had met with the company Solect and their representative has called as a follow up if we are to proceed. The information that was provided did not reflect savings for the district and asked the board how they would like to proceed. Commissioner Lemieux asked if they warranty anything. P the Superintendent if something breaks the district is responsible to pay for the repair, return rate could be 8-9 years. Commissioner Lemieux asked about geothermal and feels that this would be most beneficial. Per the Superintendent is aware of this and will be continue further research on this as time permits.

Subscriber Buteau commented that he is not in favor of getting into power purchase agreements or lease to purchase with his research he has a done. Consider the district to reach out to Mass Water Works.

Per the board they do not wish to pursue Solect and will continue research with SGE.

VI. Operations

- A. Superintendent Report** –

October 27th at 3:30 a.m. the operator on call received a low tank alarm. This can tell us that pumps are running and losing water and cannot recover. The operator contacted the Superintendent and determined that they needed to drive and try to locate the leak which began with the abandoned mills then backtracked where the Rochdale system starts and heard noise knowing in the area and pointed where it was. Contacted and engaged Hydra Tech to walk the easements using the listening boxes and began correlation to determine it was between Peter Salem Rd. and King St. By 12:30 it was

time to begin building a road into the swamp. We were losing water quickly and heading towards the Rochdale area to be without water and concerned with Vibra hospital. Emergency management was on site along with other organizations in case there was going to be a need to evacuate it. Conservation was contacted and spoke with Hillcrest water to tie into the interconnection. The hydrant to be used broke, it had to be repaired and by 5 pm there was approximately 5.5 feet of water in the Greenville tank that typically runs approximately 21 feet.

Hydra Tech needed more assistance with making the road so Morris Excavating, Town Highway and Leahy Construction from Holden assisted. Swamp mats were brought in that sank and broke. MA DEP was notified at approximately 9:15 p.m. At this point all crews involved made it into the swamp 250 feet in from Peter Salem. It was very challenging to dewater and get the mud cleared to find the main and began to correlate again to get more definitive measurements. At this point we are 24 hours in still trying to locate the leak. Meanwhile Hillcrest connections are working, however now going into Monday more usage is going to happen. Vangarden contacted their own trucking company to bring in water to maintain their operation. Leahy construction determined to continue to bring in the rock to keep building the road. 7am Monday Tata & Howard notified to explain problem and to activate the Emergency Response plan and discussions of backup what to do with possible pipe bursting. Former Superintendent Knox, Chairman Cusolito from CVSD and of the Select board assisted with getting a rain for rent storage container and a lift. Notified and lined up potable water trucking companies so the trucks could draw from hydrant in the Valley. 56 trucks loads were made to maintain flow and pressure. By the time of the 1st tanker, Hillcrest was not keeping up but slowed the loss down. Reached out to Holden DPW, Paxton Fire etc. who let us borrow light towers to continue building the road. A Hydra Tech rep walked in chest high water to see where the water was bubbling up and the leak was finally located. The area was excavated, cut out and replaced the broken section of the pipe, installed a flushing port to do chlorination, let sit for 24 hours, continued the next two days with tanker trucks filling, water samples brought to the lab, cleared and back to normal operations by Friday November 1st. There were and continue to be a lot of conversations between several people including a lot of state reps. They had us reach out to USDA for a grant that is a stretch and when applying it cannot say that it is due to an old pipe. There was a brush fire the day before that fire hydrants were utilized to work the brush fires and may have resulted in the break. There are still a lot of moving parts with this, the road put in stays in place. Conservation allowed us to go back in and clean up an abutter back yard and went further and had three jersey barriers put in. Waiting for invoices to come in to determine the total costs of the break.

Continue with the lead service line inventory 1st deadline submitted by October date. The letter deadline was sent out to those that are unknown.

Applied for a grant in the spring for the Pleasant Street easement line to help economic development and received the full grant in the amount of \$130,000.00

To begin change out of well media by end of the week

Our new operator passed his 1st test, as agreed with, will receive an additional \$1.00 per hour and will be moving on the next level of testing.

Letter from MASS DEP putting Worcester County area at a Level 3 drought. Will see what Worcester puts in place, and we will either follow these guidelines or do better.

- VII.** Date of Next Meeting: Commissioner Lemieux motions to have the next hybrid meeting December 10, 2024, at 148 Henshaw St at 7:00 p.m. Seconded by Chairman McGinn. All in favor. Approved.
- VIII.** Adjournment: Commissioner Lemieux motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Chairman McGinn. All in favor. Approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.