

**CHERRY VALLEY SEWER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
HYBRID  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 27, 2025  
7:00 P.M.**

- I. CALL TO ORDER Chairman Manseau called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Donald Manseau, Chairman	0 - in person subscriber
Robert H. Lemieux, Sr. Commissioner – late	0 – nonsubscriber
Peter Cusolito, Commissioner	
Benjamin J. Morris, Superintendent	
Jennifer Wood, Treasurer	
Cheryl Balkus, Recording Secretary	

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. **February 20, 2025** – Commissioner Cusolito motioned to approve the meeting minutes of February 20, 2025. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.

III. FINANCE

- A. Approve warrants of 3/6/2025, 3/13/2025, 3/20/2025 & 3/27/2025

Commissioner Cusolito motions to approve the warrants of 3/6/2025, 3/13/2025 & 3/20/2025. No warrant for 3/27/2025. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.

- B. Treasurer report
- |                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Sewer Revenue to date: | \$542,065.68 |
| Betterments:           | \$21,618.63  |
| Liens:                 | \$5,775.74   |
| Misc:                  | \$25.00      |
| Total:                 | \$569,465.05 |

FY25 budget	\$794,116.41
Amount left to collect:	\$252,050.73
Expenditures to date:	\$437,622.70
Revenue Expenditures:	\$104,442.98

Total:	\$569,465.05
Budget:	\$794,116.41
Amount left to collect:	\$224,651.36
Expenditures to date:	\$437,622.70
Revenue Expenditures:	\$131,842.35

- C. Draft warrant articles

1-5 are the standard articles

Article 6 is to replace the 2006 Ford F350 (19-year-old vehicle). Electronic parts for older vehicles are becoming more difficult to come by. Researching into what is available and whatever fits the price, a ¾ ton will have plow package. To keep it standard and this would be a free cash purchase. May hold on to the old truck and if it is not used will get rid of it.

Commissioner Lemieux entered the meeting online @ 7:12 pm.

Article 7 Feasibility of merging CVRWD & CVSD to authorize the board of CVSD to initiate discussions with the CVRWD water board to consider the feasibility of merging into a single water & sewer district within the Town of Leicester and to draft legislation for considerations of the district's membership for voting in the coming year. It will require that \$30,000.00 free cash be put aside regarding merging the water & sewer district.

There is the exact same article for the water district. If doing this requires two separate legal counsels to see what is needed and how to merge, how to address the legislature to make the two as one.

Article 8 To create a stabilization account. This would be for all the district sewer stations that are 25 years old. We have been doing repairs and changing out parts and not improving. At some point we need to research and be prepared to put money aside to have in place to be prepared if something was to go wrong. It would be a buffer to cover a crazy cost If something were to go drastically wrong. The Redfield Rd station had fault pressure switches, the old board would not recognize and need to make changes to hopefully get us through to July. Another station at Willow Hill has the same set up.

Article 9 funds the account & article 10 authorities to use the funds.

The only discussion was that the article requires it to be more specific. That it needs to read pumps, motors, drives & communications

Article 4 is the budget that has an increase. Since we have free cash thought is to use \$100,000.00 from the free cash to offset rates and not have an increase. If we do not do this, we would need to have conversations to increase the rates.

There are a total of 10 warrant articles that will need to be finalized at the April meeting to be signed and to be posted.

Commissioner Lemieux asked if the water and sewer district we merged in the past. Per the superintendent they have not. Merging would not make a drastic change. It will show that we are one group instead of the two and one voice being together. Leicester and Hillcrest have been in discussions about merging. Asking if people are interested in 30k per district to explore, drafting language, looking at what needs to be done with the state and then vote for next year's meeting. Speaking with the current legal counsel, he stated it will require two separate legal councils due to conflict of interest.

D. FY26 Draft budget - There are line items that will remain the same and others that will increase such as accounting, consulting fees, field supplies, insurances, motor vehicle expense, payroll, postage, repairs and maintenance, subcontractors, technology, the Upper Blackstone and City of Worcester (TBD) City does not notify until July.

Total increase \$44,659.62, keep reserve at \$20,000.00 and added a capital line item of \$20,000.00 total increase of \$64,659.62 and if approved offsetting with \$100,000.00 from free cash will not affect the rates. The superintendent asked the board if there are any changes to let him and the Treasure know prior to the next meeting.

#### IV. ADMINISTRATION

- a. Upper Blackstone reappointment – Chairman Manseau is on the Upper Blackstone Board of Directors and his current term is due to expire March 31, 2025. Upper Blackstone has requested if he is to continue for the upcoming 3-year term. Commissioner Cusolito motions to the reappointment of Chairman Manseau of the Upper Blackstone board of directors for the upcoming 3-year term. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in favor. Approved.
- b. 190 Main St drainlayer application – Commissioner Cusolito approved the application. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.

#### V. Operations - Superintendents Report

Worked further on manhole inspections and repairs.

The district received \$25,000 in ARPA funds. The funds were used towards the asset management grant as our cash contribution. As a result, the district received a

\$150,000.00 asset management grant. This is to be used to make system improvements and greatly benefit the customers.

The pump on Redfield failed. The upgrade was done with the assistance of F.R. Mahoney and would like to bring them in again in July to focus on the Willow Hill pump station.

Per Highway does not appear to be any roadways that will be paved that will affect the district that have sewer manholes.

A contractor installing a driveway in the Sargent St area that is connected to the sewer system found what appeared to be a perimeter drain tied into the sewer system and notified the Superintendent who confirmed using a dye and water. This was unknown to the current owner, and it is believed that the former owner who is believed to now be deceased did the illegal connection that has now been disconnected.

Information has been received from DPC engineering and will tell us further of what needs to be done in the manholes.

VI. Date of Next Meeting:

Approval of Next Meeting Date – Per Commissioner Lemieux motioned to hold the next Sewer Meeting, April 10, 2025, hybrid or at 7:00 pm at 148 Henshaw St Leicester, MA. Second, by Commissioner Cusolito. All in favor. Approved.

- A. ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner Cusolito motioned to adjourn the meeting. Second, by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

*"This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer."*