

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
April 29, 2025
7:00 P.M.
CHERRY VALLEY & ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT
Hybrid

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman McGinn called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

The following were in attendance:

Joseph McGinn, Chairman	
Benjamin Morris, Superintendent	2 - in person subscribers
Robert H. Lemieux, Sr., Commissioner	0 - people on line
Jennifer Wood, Treasurer - online	
Cheryl Balkus, Clerk	

II. District Member Forum – Chairman McGinn opened the District Member Forum. A subscriber asked if a decision had been made on the rate structure. Per the Chairman stated will be discussed later in the meeting. There were no further questions or comments from the board or the audience attending. Commissioner Lemieux motioned to close the District Member Forum. Seconded by Chairman McGinn. All in Favor. Approved.

III. APPROVE MINUTES

April 8, 2025, Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Lemieux motioned to approve the April 8, 2025, minutes. Seconded by Chairman McGinn. All in favor. Approved.

IV. FINANCE

A. Approve 4/14/2025, 4/21/2025, 4/28/2025 warrants totaling \$111,247.89.

Commissioner Lemieux inquired about a warrant listed as Tata & Howard expenses for \$36,954.73. Per the Superintendent this is for the consulting fees for the Pleasant St. Rt. 56 and Stafford Street that is all through a grant. Required by the state we need to show it paid, provide them with proof and the state will send the reimbursement to the district within seven days.

Commissioner Lemieux inquired regarding the warrant item for Stiles Company listed as technology. Per Treasurer Wood made an amendment to change it from technology to meters.

Chairman McGinn motions to approve all the above warrants with the amendment. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in favor. Approved.

B. Draft budget – The Superintendent discussed some line items were reduced such as the number of meters from 150 to 100 and part time position from 20 hours to 15.

A brief discussion regarding future rates and not to be decided at tonight meeting and to be addressed at a later date. After the review of Capital Strategic Solutions, the study predicted at 15% for FY27. We did our own assessment figure of 13.5% increase. We are leaning towards a base charge decrease and some tiers will increase. Some will see the same, some will see a decrease, and some will see an increase all based on usage. Per Chairman McGinn it's important to say that the proposed structure will generate \$4,000.00 more than the proposed budget. If we do not increase the rates, we will be in the negative.

Per Superintendent Morris free cash was used last year to not have the rates increased and this year free cash will not be used and there will need to be a rate increase.

Commissioner Lemieux motioned to approve the FY26 budget. Seconded by Chairman McGinn. All in favor. Approved.

C. Draft warrant articles –
Articles 1-3 are standard articles.

Articles 4 and 5 are for part-term commissioners. The replacement of Arthur Levesque and Chairman McGinn's position. The chairman announced earlier today that he will be leaving his position due to relocation.

Articles 6, 7, 8 and 9 are housekeeping articles.

Article 10 is stabilization to fund #11 allows to use.

Article 12 is regarding the ratification of the swamp leak.

Article 13 changes to enabling acts. There was a section that had more regarding change of service areas and this part was eliminated.

Article 14 is the feasibility of merging the Cherry Valley & Rochdale Water District and the Cherry Valley Sewer Districts.

Article 15 Risk & Resilience that is needed to be completed every 5 years.

Article 16 Engineering of the Main Transmission Line. The fee to use existing line through the swamp is less than going around cutting into roads exceeding price per foot than the swamp.

Article 17 Kettle brook Crossing Water Main

Subscriber Buteau spoke about Article 14's proposed merger and the study that was done with Weston & Sampson regarding all districts. Feels the order would be that the water board sits down to look at all the efficiencies and then at the reverse side of the sewer district. Why spend \$30,000.00 and no discussion prior to the draft warrant article. Rather than spend the \$30,000.00, which demonstrates that any of this makes sense and is not fair to the voters.

Per the superintendent is to have discussions with separate legal counsel show and the community that we are to take those steps. It is not his decision, it is the voters, and he will do the research to assist the voters in this.

Per Chairman McGinn that this article is not to force anyone to this. He also discussed when the town wide study was done that there was no interest in it. Discussion was made about the wording of the article and Mr. Buteau does not agree with it does not have how he would not have a suggestion to reword it – feels that the work could be done in house 1st before going to legal counsel.

Per the board is to leave article 14 as is and it can be amended on the floor. Per Chairman McGinn commented that another option for legal is to reach out to RCAP or CRMP for a facilitator.

Commissioner Lemieux motions to accept the warrant articles for the FY26 budget as amended, seconded by Chairman McGinn. All in favor. Approved.

V. Administrative

A. Summer Hours – Per the Superintendent unable to discuss this at tonight's meeting and asked that it be tabled. Commissioner Lemieux motions to table. Seconded by Chairman McGinn. All in favor. Approved.

B. 23 South St. New Service Application – Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the New Service Application. Seconded by Chairman McGinn. All in favor. Approved.

VI. Date of Next Meeting: Commissioner Lemieux motions to hold the next meeting Tuesday, June 10, 2025, hybrid, 7:00 pm at 148 Henshaw St. Leicester MA. Seconded by Chairman McGinn. All in favor. Approved.

VII. Adjournment: Commissioner Lemieux motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Chairman McGinn. All in favor. Approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.