

**CHERRY VALLEY SEWER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
HYBRID  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 17, 2025  
7:00 P.M.**

- I. CALL TO ORDER Chairman Manseau called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Donald Manseau, Chairman  
Robert H. Lemieux, Sr. Commissioner  
Peter Cusolito, Commissioner  
Benjamin J. Morris, Superintendent  
Jennifer Wood, Treasurer  
Cheryl Balkus, Recording Secretary

1 - in person subscriber  
1 – online nonsubscriber

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. **March 27, 2025** – Commissioner Cusolito motioned to approve the meeting minutes of March 27, 2025. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in favor. Approved.

III. FINANCE

- A. Approve warrants of 4/3/2025 & 4/10/2025

Commissioner Lemieux motions to approve the above warrants. Second, by Commissioner Cusolito. All in favor. Approved.

- B. Draft warrant articles

#1-3 are the standard articles

#4 is the budget amount

Article 6 is for the purchase of a truck. It is for whatever we can get either F250 or F350. Received two quotes and are comparable. The truck is owned by the sewer dept that is a 20yr old vehicle – having a lot of rot issues and will be costly to maintain soon.

Article #7 is the feasibility of merging the water and sewer districts. Commissioner Lemieux asked what the benefits are, and have it quantified because it's going to be an estimated \$30,000.00 for sewer and \$30,000.00 for water. Basically, what is in it for the subscriber. Per the Superintendent that there have been discussions in town about consolidating. We as a district can do ours to show that we are in that direction and wrapping two into one gets the conversation with the others. It was voiced at public meetings that they did not want to pick up any costs associated with the CVRWD & CVSD district. Commissioner Cusolito commented if we don't start our own it will stay stagnant. The \$30,000.00 would cover attorneys of feasibility, legalities and an RFP would need to be put out for it. DOR has asked why the two are not merged. Per Commissioner Cusolito, if we can get it approved look into it and may decide no it is not something we want to do and not spend the money at all and end it. At least it is in the books, and we do not have to try to get authorization later and another point is that merging would help with grant avenues as opposed to being separate entities.

Greg Buteau asked who the driver of this article is and was shocked that he did not recall prior conversations and spoke about the monies that the feds and state provided that were spent three years ago, and this would have been the time to do this. Why spend money when the prior study was done. Per Commissioner Lemieux tried to explain that the \$30,000.00 is for each district to find what it takes to do it. Buteau spoke more about what was paid 3 years ago. But this study would be about bringing the two (CVRWD & CVSD) together and per Chairman Manseau prior to this CVSD was not in the position to do this because it was running in the red and now, we are not and can research this. This is to have the conversation and if the board wants to pursue it then it can be pursued. If they opt to table it, we pull it out of the list of articles.

Clarification of article 9 stabilization account. This is for the pump stations that are reaching the age of 25 years old. Having issues with pumps, VFDs. The article would allow you to spend \$30,000.00 with a \$10,000.00 buffer. If exceeded the \$30,000.00 it requires a vote for the additional. The Superintendent covered what is involved in the stations and the costs involved. This account would dedicate to this when if there is a failure there is money available. #8 creates, #9 finds it 10 gives the commissioners to allow to spend. Per Commissioner Lemieux thoughts are that it could be too low. The Superintendent spoke about the failure at Redfield Rd. We are in the planning process of the asset planning plan. We have not had the money available to us in the past and this is a start.

Per Commissioner Cusolito looks like we will have some expansion in the district and hope that in the future we will have the experience of starting with this and going there.

Commissioner Cusolito motions to table the warrants articles to take a vote to approve the budget and then if the budget is approved then come back to approving or not approving all the warrant articles. Second, Commissioner Lemieux. All in favor. Approved.

C. FY26 Draft budget – Commissioner Cusolito motions to approve the FY26 Budget and Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor approved. Commissioner Lemieux motions to accept the warrants as written and seconded by Commissioner Cusolito. All in favor. Approved.

#### IV. ADMINISTRATION

a. Drain Layer Application - Commissioner Cusolito motions to approve the drain layer application. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.

#### V. Operations - Superintendents Report

Finishing up the manhole's inspections with DPC. There were access issues in winter and now that cleared up working on the remainder. The final report will be provided once completed and will be able to focus on sewer manhole rehab work. Any town paving that will be done will not involve roads within the district.

190 Main Street has done one of their sewer connections, and a lot more work to be done by their contractors. Overall, to this day we will have 5 additional connections to the sewer district and there has been someone actively looking to develop within the district. There are a lot of hypotheticals but when or if the time comes it will inform the board.

#### VI. Date of Next Meeting:

Approval of Next Meeting Date – Per Commissioner Lemieux motioned to hold the next Sewer Meeting May 22, 2025, The Town Hall annual meeting at 7:00 pm 3 Washburn Square 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 8:15 p.m.

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