

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 10, 2026**  
**7:00 P.M.**  
**CHERRY VALLEY & ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT**  
Hybrid

**I.** CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Shocik called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

The following were in attendance:

John Shocik	1 attending subscriber
Robert Jones	0 online
Michael McCormick	
Benjamin Morris, Superintendent	
Jennifer Wood, Treasurer	
Cheryl Balkus, Clerk	

**II. District Member Forum** – There were no questions or comments. Commissioner Jones has motioned to close the forum. Second, Chaiman Shocik. All in favor. Approved.

**III. APPROVE MINUTES**

January 20, 2026, Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Jones motioned to approve the January 20, 2026, minutes. Second, by Chairman Shocik. All in favor. Approved.

**IV. FINANCE**

**A.** Approve 1/26/2026, 2/2/2026, 2/9/2026, 2/16/2026, 2/23/2026, 3/2/2026 & 3/9/2026 warrants. Commissioner Jones motions to approve all the above warrants. Second, by Chairman Shocik. All in favor. Approved.

**B.** January bank transfer – Commissioner Jones motions to approve \$70,584.62 from the water checking account to the sewer checking account. Second by Chaiman Shocik. All in favor. Approved.

**C.** February bank transfer – Commissioner Jones motions to approve \$58,073.01 from the water checking account to the sewer checking account. Seconded by Chairman Shocik. All in favor. Approved.

**D.** Transfer to Investments - Per Treasurer Wood \$250,000.00 is invested in Bartholomew and requests to transfer an additional \$250,000.00 from the money market account to the account with Bartholomew. The purpose is to receive larger interest rates. Commissioner Jones motions to move \$250,000.00 to the additional \$250,000.00 that is in the Bartholomew account. Seconded by Chairman Shocik. All in favor. Approved.

**E.** Treasurer Report

February Water Revenue: \$130,126.51 Total to date: \$994,203.47  
SBA Rental: \$2,078.55 Total to Date: \$16,308.22  
Lien payments to date: \$7,009.04  
Reimbursement: Health: \$406.50 Total to date: \$138,304.86  
Real estate taxes \$330.00 Total to date: \$973.82  
Grand total to date: \$1,156,799.41

Expenses to Date  
Operating expenses: \$934,291.02  
Loan payment: \$34,476.45  
Total Expense: \$968,767.47  
Total revenue brought in \$1,156,799.41

Revenue – Expenses \$188,031.94

FY26 Operating Budget  
\$1,335,617.52 Capital balance: \$20,000 Reserve: \$50,000.00 MWPAT  
Loans \$34,470.00  
Total: \$1,440,087.58  
Expenditures to date: \$934,291.02 – MWPAT Loan: \$34,476.45 Balance:  
\$968,767.47  
Remaining balance: \$401,326.56 Capital: \$20,000.00 Reserve:  
\$50,000.00 MWPAT Loans (\$6.45)  
Total remaining balance: \$471,320.11

**F.** FY27 draft budget – Per the Superintendent this is preliminary.

The City of Worcester line item is unknown because of last year. The district had two very large leaks, the well was off many times, and this throws off the formula for the City of Worcester line item.

Insurance increase due to adding an additional person to the plan.

Lab work is increasing due to changes in testing requirements.

Salary increases and part-time increase of hours from 15 hours to 18 hours.

Subcontractors increase, pipes increase, retirement increase that cannot be controlled by the district and other misc. Other line items with much less increases. The increase from previous year's budget \$61,311.55 and the district can make this increase in the budget without doing a rate increase.

Advised the board if any questions to let the Treasurer or Superintendent know. Changes or updates will need to be made and then to be approved by end of April to prepare for the May annual meeting.

**V. Administrative**

- A.** 1172 Stafford St – Per the Superintendent this is a development that will consist of 10 contractors' buildings 124' X 60' with 5 units in each building that will be required to be separately metered, and the development must have hydrants. The developer did not know that the current 2" water line is undersized and did not extend to this property. The existing line must be extended and be upgraded to an 8" water main at his expense. The district received the plans and reviewed completed by Tata & Howard. The Superintendent did the breakdown for Connection, Application and Inspections fees. Not including the upgrade to the water line is \$296,766.00 less \$3,000.00 the developer has paid to date and is asking if the board would consider reducing or waiving any of the mentioned fees with the fact that he will paying to extend and upgrade the 2" water line to the 8" water line. The board commented that with this service line upgrade of the very dated existing line that the district and current area where customers are attached will certainly benefit from the upgrade and understand that it is going to cost the developer a very large amount to do. The board did review of the various line items that the Superintendent provided, and a letter is to be drawn up for review by the district's attorney for approval, the Chairman will sign and letter to be provided to the developer. Commissioner McCormick motions to agree to the adjustments and to have the district's attorney review letter for approval for the developer in the amount of \$51,132.00. Seconded by Chairman Shocik. All in favor. Approved.

**VI. Operations – Superintendent Morris**

Leak on Main St that was found by leak detecting, substantial flow change since it was repaired.

A chemical injection part broke. There were issues with getting the part, so the well was offline for two weeks. Has been resolved and well back up and running.

Today met with Tata & Howard regarding replacement of the transmission main that goes through the swamp that broke last year.

Option 1 to put in a new line that does not go through the swamp and go around. Substantially higher costs between \$8 - \$10 million.

Option 2 Go through the swamp where the existing 8-inch line is and run a new 12-inch main. If the 8 inch fails, we have the new 12 inch as the backup. It would run from 148 Henshaw to Lexington and will be an estimated \$4 million. With this is much more that will involve Conservation, DEP etc.. There is more work to do and more to come on this.

Waiting on MassDOT about the Kettle brook crossing. Anticipating work to begin in the summer.

Warrant articles being worked on to be presented at the next meeting.

**VII.** Date of Next Meeting: Commissioner McCormick motions to hold the next meetings Tuesday, hybrid, April 7th & 28th 2026, at 7:00 pm at 148 Henshaw St. Leicester MA. Seconded by Commissioner Jones. All in favor. Approved.

**VIII.** Adjournment: Commissioner Jones motioned to adjourn. Second, by Commissioner Mc Cormick. All in favor. Approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm.