

**CHERRY VALLEY SEWER DISTRICT
BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
HYBRID
MEETING MINUTES
April 16, 2026
7:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER Chairman Manseau called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Donald Manseau, Chairman	1 in person subscriber
Robert H. Lemieux, Sr. Commissioner – late 7:17 pm	1 in person nonsubscriber
Peter Cusolito, Commissioner	0 online
Benjamin J. Morris, Superintendent	
Jennifer Wood, Treasurer – absent	
Cheryl Balkus, Recording Secretary	

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. **March 19, 2026** – Commissioner Cusolito motioned to approve the meeting minutes of March 19, 2026. Second, by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.

III. FINANCE

- A. Approve warrants of 4/2/2026 & 4/9/2026.
Commissioner Cusolito motions to approve the warrants. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All In favor. Approved.

- B. March bank transfer - Commissioner Cusolito motions the bank transfer from the sewer district to the water district. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.

C. FY27 draft budget – No major changes for total amount of revenue that the sewer district's needs. The shared accounts will be changed to the water/sewer service agreement. The line items highlighted are those line items that will be the cumulative amounts. Per the Treasure and the Auditor, it is required to do it this way and be the best way to reflect it. The goal is to keep the rates where they are now, and \$140,000.00 free cash will be used. Will know in July what the City of Worcester rate will be. Commissioner Cusolito motions to approve the FY27 budget. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.

D. FY27 warrant articles – 8 articles 1-4 are the standard articles. The last article is to pay off 1 of the USDA loans by transfer of \$590,000.00 from free cash. If the loan were to be paid off it would save \$50-\$60K total in interest. Loan interest on this loan is 1.25%. Commissioner Lemieux, if the interest in money we invest is greater than 3% then before we vote we need to know how much we can make if we invest it. The rates change every 3 months and suggest to table this to end of April. Commissioner Cusolito motions to approve articles 1-7 and to table article 8. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in favor. Approved.

IV. Administration

Service Agreement – this many conversations regarding the agreement – it is to reflect the changed made in the budgetary line side of things referenced to #3. The amount agreed upon will be paid on a quarterly basis from Sewer District to the Water District. Mr. Buteau has some issues with the verbiage from the 2015 agreement to the new agreement being presented. Commissioner Cusolito motions to approve the amended restated service agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Lemieux. All in the favor. Approved.

V. Superintendents Report

Finishing up sewer manholes inspection. There were neighborhoods with extensive blockages with wipes, fats, oils and grease. We may need additional assistance from Helgerson with their equipment to clean out the area. A notice will be going out to the

sewer customers to remind them that it is not acceptable to put these items into the sewer system.

Pump parts were received and one has been changed out.

Plug valve arrived early to change the leaking one in the Towtaid Street pump station.

For a secondary meter we cannot purchase a meter for under \$20,000.00. DPC put together 4 alternatives. Initial talks were about purchasing a meter, and it appeared to be a good idea. After speaking with DPC and further research there are other recommendations at a lesser expense. Asking the board to hold off on the purchase of the meter and perhaps consider to have a FLO-DAR installed.

1. No capital investment do on weekly instead of monthly

2. Turnkey approach install calibrate monitor for three months and train to have us go into the manhole. Costs just under \$38,000.00 and an additional \$500.00 a year subscription. Subject of change based on cellular costs.

3. Semipermanent approach – DPC installs equipment they do all the work estimated \$19,900.00 for three months and if we want them to go longer it will be more.

4. DPC gets a FLO-DAR (reliable flow metering for open channel applications) equipment that goes into the manhole. Go every 2 weeks into manhole to grab data. This would be rental equipment. Price is \$13,000.00.

The engineer did not see signs of surging and possibly something there is getting caught up causing increase in the flume. Subscriber suggested doing the study in the winter when the problems seem to begin in late fall. Per the Superintendent we could since we would not have the meter until July and push out the installations in the fall.

There is no further information regarding the City of Worcester and their rates.

Per Chairman Manseau there is a new crew of people at the Upper Blackstone.

- VI. Approval of Next Meeting Date – Per Commissioner Lemieux motioned to hold the next Sewer Meeting May 6, 2026, 7:00 pm, at 148 Henshaw St Leicester, MA. Second, by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.

ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner Cusolito motioned to adjourn the meeting. Second, by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

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