

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
April 28, 2026
7:00 P.M.
CHERRY VALLEY & ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT
Hybrid

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Shocik called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

The following were in attendance:

John Shocik

2- attending subscribers

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, Chairman Shocik. All in favor. Approved.

III. APPROVE MINUTES

April 7, 2026, Meeting Minutes – Commissioner McCormick motioned to approve the April 7, 2026, minutes. Second, by Chairman Shocik. All in favor. Approved.

IV. FINANCE

A. FY27 Budget – FY27 handouts of the proposed budget given to the board members and attending audience. The sewer portion added to the water portion it is noted at bottom of the budget to explain accounting change and how it should be done. There are some line items that are shared with the Cherry Valley Sewer District pursuant to the Service Agreement, consistent with past practice. However, due to a change in accounting the associated costs are now being recorded as revenue rather than as reimbursements of specific expense line items. As a result of this accounting change, the line items reflect a significant increase. The sewer district portion has been incorporated into the total amounts, rather than offset through reimbursements. Subscriber Buteau asked if we received in writing from the Auditor. Per the Treasurer we do have an explanation. Per subscriber Buteau appreciative of the explanation that he had with the Treasurer earlier and asked if there could be a breakdown of the percentages. Per the auditors what they are asking is that there is one line item going forward, to get away from the individual line items and not to overcomplicate it. Per Chairman Shocik we do not want to start nickel and diming and running into a problem. Per Subscriber Buteau agrees to not overcomplicate so that it is clear to the rate payer. Per the Chairman does not believe that the subscribers will ask for this and if the question is asked we would be more than happy to explain. Per Commissioner Jones motions to approve the FY27 Budget as presented. Second by Commissioner McCormick. All in Favor. Approved.

B. FY27 Draft warrant articles – Superintendent Morris reviewed the warrant articles with the board. #14 is an add on that is required to update the Emergency Response Plan.

Chairman Shocik asked to confirm article 13 is a 2” water main. Superintendent Morris confirmed. Mr. Buteau asked how much free cash is certified for the district. Per the Treasurer \$734,125.00. Mr. Buteau asked how much being asked to use in the FY27 budget. Per the Superintendent and confirmation of Treasurer Wood \$206,000.00. \$525,000.00 will remain and per the Superintendent does not want it to go below this. Commissioner McCormick motion to approve the FY27 warrant articles. Second by Chairman Shocik. All in favor. Approved.

V. Administrative

- A.** Service agreement – Per Treasurer Wood and the Superintendent, discussion held with the district's Attorney Bachrach and approved. A handout given to reflect the old attachment and the new attachment. It does not have a specific breakdown, and we have the backup to reflect the numbers. Attachment A to the Service Agreement.
- B.** Rules and regulations – There will be an update to the rules and regulations. Item D to read the following: The Board of Commissioners reserves the right to waive (fully or partial) connection fees if there is a significant opportunity to improve capital infrastructure in lieu of full connection costs in the area of proposed development. This came to light with the Stafford St development. Commissioner McCormick motioned to approved. Second by Chairman Shocik. All in favor. Approved.
- C.** Annual water restrictions – The district continues to hold permit for Henshaw Pond and required by the state and as a formality because we hold the permit, we must enact the restriction. Commissioner McCormick motion to approve. Second by Commissioner Jones. All in favor. Approved.

VI. Superintendent Report

Hydrant flushing continues for the Valley and next week staff should begin in the Rochdale area. Should all be completed by May 15th.

Will begin flagging out easements and begin cutting. May require some areas that will need forestry due to the size of some of the trees.

MassDOT has pushed our permit for the Kettle Brook project to 75%. Hopefully can get on with the project.

- VII.** Date of Next Meeting: Commissioner McCormick motions to hold the next meeting May 21, 2026, at 7:30 pm at the Town Hall 3 Washburn Sq. Leicester, MA and June 9, 2026, 148 Henshaw St. Leicester MA. Second by Commissioner Jones. All in favor. Approved.

- VIII.** Adjournment: Commissioner McCormick motioned to adjourn. Second, by Commissioner Jones. All in favor. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 P.M.