

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES
February 13, 2024,
2:00 P.M.
CHERRY VALLEY & ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT - Virtual

- I.** CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Chairman Levesque at 2:06 P. M.

The following were in attendance:

Joseph McGinn, Commissioner
Arthur E.J. Levesque, Chairman
Benjamin Morris, Superintendent 2 - online subscribers
Robert H. Lemieux, Sr., Commissioner - absent
Jennifer Wood, Treasurer
Cheryl Balkus, Clerk

- II.** District Member Forum – Chairman Levesque called the district member forum to begin. There were no discussions or comments. Commissioner McGinn motions to close the district member forum seconded by Chairman Levesque. All in favor. Approved.

III. APPROVE MINUTES

January 18, 2024, Meeting Minutes - Commissioner McGinn motions to approve the January 18, 2024, minutes. Seconded by Chairman Levesque. All in favor. Approved.

Per Chairman Levesque requested to update the January 18, 2024 attendance to include Superintendent Joseph Wood.

IV. FINANCE

- A.** Approve January 22, 2024, Warrant
- B.** Approve January 29, 2024, Warrant
- C.** Approve February 5, 2024, Warrant
- D.** Approve February 12, 2024, Warrant

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

- E.** January Bank Transfer - Commissioner McGinn motions to approve the January bank transfer from the water checking account in the amount of \$56,080.73 to the sewer checking account. Seconded by Chairman Levesque. All in favor. Approved.
- F.** Treasurer Report – Chairman Levesque asked Treasurer Wood to confirm the amounts regarding the Lead Service Line Inventory in the amount of \$110,000.00 and the Sargent St. Water Line amount of \$330,000.00. Treasurer Wood confirmed that these are the correct amounts reimbursed by grant funds. Per Treasurer Wood to date the Operating Expenses are \$636,942.48, Loan Payment \$34,463.63 total expense \$671,406.11. The district is halfway through and currently remains in the positive and will still need to bring in \$501,760.72 if we were to spend the whole budget.

Commissioner McGinn asked if we have a projected revenue for the remainder of the Fiscal Year. Per Treasurer Wood terminations begin March/April, will need to see what is brought in and it will be cutting it very close. Commissioner McGinn suggests that we begin to decrease spending as the district is coming to a close to the end of the fiscal

year. Treasurer Wood agrees that we are tracking, began reviewing the budget for next year and with cost increases we are looking at the need to increase the rates to an estimated 8%.

Subscriber Greg Buteau asked if there was a status update of the audit. Per Superintendent Morris waiting for an answer from the auditor to get the information to the DOR.

V. Administration

- A.** LWSD support letter – Leicester Water is in development to tie into the City of Worcester. CVRWD supports the LWSD application for Community Project Funding for the Water System Interconnection with the City of Worcester project. The MassDEP recommended that CVRWD install a second metered interconnection with Worcester to improve water supply resiliency. Once the LWSD constructs their interconnection with Worcester, LWSD will be able to supply water to the CVRWD if needed. The installation of the proposed LWSD interconnection with Worcester will substantially achieve the resilience of both systems as recommended by MassDEP. Commissioners McGinn motions to authorize the signature of Superintendent Morris under the board of directors. Seconded by Chairman Levesque. All in favor. Approved.

VI. Operations –

Aquarion Water reached out in having a discussion with Superintendent Morris and he was not comfortable in doing this without the Commissioners. In 2018 the Superintendent did meet with them with the consensus they were looking for more from us and nothing came of it. In 2021 it was discussed during the Town Wide Solution, and nothing came of it. Per Commissioner McGinn recalls Aquarion expressed some interest in all districts not just the one and from his recollections they were not interested in the sewer district at all and that would make it very difficult. The interest is not clear about Aquarion in the business of what they were proposing if it were to be just the water district or if they are even open to the water and sewer district. He would not be offended by having a meeting with them to listen to what they have to say and then after have discussion about it. Chairman Levesque commented that they are a for profit company, and they would most likely be raising the rates. The Superintendent reached out to LWSD and Aquarion did not reach out to them. They have only inquired with CVRWD about just the water not the sewer. Per Commissioner McGinn it is an area of discussion, and it would not be a bad idea to schedule a meeting either virtually or after Easter.

The Forest Mgmt. Plan finalized with the recommendations. Thanked Commissioner McGinn for assisting with this. All sent off for reimbursement.

Draft budget to be done at the next meeting.

The Sargent St Bid will be going out and field permit for the road opening.

May need special article for the billing software. Upgrade has been substantial and researching other companies.

Subscriber Buteau asked if we are looking at more than 1 company regarding the billing software? Per Superintendent Morris and Wood confirmed that we are.

No update regarding Solar.

- VII.** Date of Next Meeting: Commissioner McGinn motions to have the next hybrid meeting March 12, 2024, at the 148 Henshaw St at 6:30 P.M. Seconded by Chairman Levesque. All in Favor. Approved.
- VIII.** Adjournment: Commissioner McGinn motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Chairman Levesque. All in favor. Approved. The meeting ended at 2:48p.m.