CHERRY VALLEY SEWER DISTRICT BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING HYBRID MEETING MINUTES February 22, 2024 6:30 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER Chairman Manseau called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

1 - Subscriber 1 - Nonsubscriber

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 11, 2024 – Commissioner Cusolito motioned to approve the meeting minutes of January 11, 2024. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.

III. FINANCE -

- a. Approve warrant of February 1, 2024
- b. Approve warrant of February 8, 2024
- c. Approve warrant of February 22, 2024 No warrant.

Commissioner Cusolito motions to approve the warrants for February 1 & 8 2024. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.

- d. Treasurer Report Per Treasurer Wood we have not brought in as much money as has been spent and we need to collect \$329,180.68 to meet the budget. There is a possibility that we may have to have a rate increase before the end of the fiscal year, the City of Worcester bill could make us go over it. We will wait till March to see the close out to reevaluate.
- e. Budget Review Superintendent Morris & Treasurer Wood presented a draft of the FY25 budget to the board stating that we are trying not to make any drastic changes and that any increases that are happening are out of our control. The draft shows the shared expenses between water & sewer and where there are either increases or decreases. The proposed FY25 budget amount is \$749,979.98. The largest increases are Technology, City of Worcester, and Upper Blackstone. Technology increase is due to our current billing software needs to be updated, which we have been doing in the research process. The costs of upgrading are very high, and it may be less expensive to go with another company that is beneficial to the district. As for the City of Worcester we will not know till late July & the Upper Blackstone we are awaiting the final decision. Assuming what the new amount of the budget is we must be prepared and based on what we would need to come in we may have to consider the sewer rates to increase. The two options are a 4% or 5% increase and this is open for discussion.

Subscriber Lennon asked if the increase would be in the rates themselves or everything including the customer charge. Per Treasurer Wood it would be on everything, and she is still working on it.

Non-Subscriber Buteau asked if the Sewer district anticipates any outside articles. Per the Superintendent we are still awaiting the completed audit.

If the 2006 truck is still holding up. Per the Superintendent it is.

There were no further questions or comments regarding the FY25 Draft Budget.

IV. ADMINISTRATION

 Drainlayer Application – Commissioner Cusolito motions to approve the Antanavica Construction Co Inc renewal application. Seconded Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.

V. OPERATIONS

Still waiting to receive the asset management grant, then be able to supplement with the ARPA money.

There is an annual sewer report required by MassDEP and required for the Upper Blackstone. The Superintendent and the prior Superintendent had not ever heard about this and if he had known he would have been doing this all along. There is a new Section Chief for MassDEP that is very involved with collection systems. The Superintendent has been in contact with DPC Engineering who will assist with this for a first time and then going forward will have a template to use going forward that he can do on his own. The initial cost is going to be about \$3,000.00.

After speaking with the DPW foreman Auburn St and Willow Hill Rd hopefully will be done this year and we may need to spend on manhole rehabs. Will get Willow Hill out of the way first. Time has been spent measuring to determine what will be needed, the information has been sent to our rep to get a quote of costs.

Getting ready for the FY25 budget and the Annual Meeting.

VI. Date of Next Meeting:

Approval of Next Meeting Date – Commissioner Cusolito motioned to hold the next Sewer Meeting March 21, 2024, at 6:30 pm at 148 Henshaw St Leicester, MA. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner Cusolito motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chairman Manseau. All in favor. Approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

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