

**Board of Commissioners  
Minutes  
Public Hearing  
February 25, 2019  
(approved March 18, 2019)**

Present: J. Comer, T. Pellegrino, D. Provencher, Superintendent R. Miner, Business Manager/Water Quality Support J. Lavoie

Excused: G. Keller, W. von Schoen

**Introduction of Board/Staff**

J. Comer introduced the Commissioners and staff of the MVD to the public, along with the District's engineers.

**1. Public Hearing to discuss the proposed issuance of two municipal bonds and notes proposed by petitioned warrant articles for PFAS treatment on four MVD wells. (Rosemarie Rung – presenter/petitioner)**

J. Comer stated the following:

“I declare the Public Hearing relative to the Merrimack Village District issuance of municipal bonds proposed by petitioned Warrant Articles for 2019-2020 open for comments. The notice of this Public Hearing was advertised in the Nashua Telegraph and appeared in the February 6-8, 2019 editions. This Public Hearing notice was also posted on the Merrimack Village District website at [WWW.MVDWATER.ORG](http://WWW.MVDWATER.ORG), the MVD Office, the Merrimack Town Hall, Public Library and Post Office.

“The purpose of this hearing is to allow comments from the public in relation to any proposed petitioned warrant article requiring municipal bonds or notes. The Board of Commissioner will not comment during this time. Prior to public comment the Board will receive information on these articles for the Merrimack Village District. During and after this presentation the public may ask questions, request clarification and/or offer comments for the Board's consideration.

“When all comments have been received I will close the Public Hearing – the Board will go into session to consider action on the proposed projects upon conclusion of all Public Hearings for this evening.

“Are there any questions about this procedure?”

There were no questions at this time.

J. Comer continued:

“The Board of Commissioners will now ask the petitioner to provide an overview and explanation of the proposed petitioned warrant articles.”

Rosemarie Rung noted that petitioned Warrant Articles were drafted for 2 bond articles. These articles are for \$3.6M for water treatment for wells 7 & 8 and \$10.9M for water treatment at wells 2 & 3. The level of PFOS/PFAS contamination in these wells is currently between 8 and 22 ppt. These levels are lower in the winter. The NH proposed Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) is 38 for PFOA. These Warrant Articles are a proactive attempt to reduce these contaminants in the wells to non-detect. Article 2 (\$3.6M) asked for \$86,000 from the upcoming fiscal year to cover the first year’s interest payment. Article 3 (\$10.9M) asks for \$260,389 for the upcoming fiscal year to cover the first year’s interest payment. Article 3 has a higher amount as the water from wells 2 & 3 will need to be treated for Iron and Manganese also. The passage of these articles will also cause the District to increase water rates. Both of these articles require a 2/3 ballot vote to pass. R. Rung noted there is an urgency to get the water treated.

## **2. Questions from the Public**

There were no questions from the Board of Commissioners or the Public or the Press at this time.

J. Comer stated:

“Seeing no further questions, I declare this public hearing closed (7:40 PM). The Board of Commissioners will reopen the session of the Merrimack Village District Board of Commissioners meeting upon conclusion of all Public Hearings for this evening.”

## **3. Public Hearing regarding results of the Rate Study completed by Underwood Engineers, Inc. Discussion relative to the proposed rate increase for regular operations and rate impacts should the two petitioned warrant articles pass at the Annual Meeting.**

K. Pratt noted that rate increases of 13% in FY2020, 13% of FY2021, and 0% in FY2022 is projected to meet the needs of the current budget of the Merrimack Village District. This is a total increase of 28%.

If the petitioned Warrant Article for \$3.6M is passed rate increases of 13% in FY2020, 13% in FY2021, and 12% in FY2022 are projected to meet the budget of the MVD. This is a total increase of 43%.

If both petitioned Warrant Articles for \$3.6M and \$10.9M are passed rate increases of 13% in FY2020, 13% in FY2021, and 40% in FY2022 are projected to meet the budget of the MVD. This is a total increase of 79%.

The associated annual increase in water bill for the average residential customer, who used (206 gallons per day) for the current budget only is \$87; for the \$3.6M article is \$49; and for the \$10.9M article is \$112. If the current budget along with both articles pass, the average users annual water bill in 2022 will increase from \$315 to \$563.

#### **4. Questions from the Public**

Wendy Thomas noted that her household is on a private well. Her cost to date to filter her well water has been \$3,300 with \$500 per year to maintain the filtration system. She felt that the increase of \$250 per year for the rate payers for the treatment of the water from the District's wells is a bargain.

When asked the recommendation of the Board on the two petitioned warrant articles it was noted that a recommendation on these articles would be taken by the Board on March 5, 2019.

#### **5. Public Hearing regarding the 2019-2020 Proposed Operating Budget and Warrant Articles for the 2019 Annual Meeting scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the All-Purpose Room of the Masticola Upper Elementary School located at 26 Baboosic Lake Road.**

J. Comer stated:

"I declare the Public Hearing relative to the Merrimack Village District proposed operating budget for 2019-2020 and Warrant Articles for 2019 open for comments. The notice of this public Hearing was advertised in the Nashua Telegraph and appeared in the February 6-8, 2019 editions. The Public Hearing notice was also posted on the Merrimack Village District website at [WWW.MVDWATER.ORG](http://WWW.MVDWATER.ORG), the MVD Office, the Merrimack Town Hall, Public Library and Post Office.

"The purpose of this hearing is to allow comments from the public in relation to the proposed 2019-2020 operating budget and 2019 Warrant Articles. The Board of Commissioners will not comment during this time. Prior to the public comment period staff will present and explain the proposed operating budget and warrant articles for the Merrimack Village District. During and after this presentation the public may ask questions, request clarification and/or offer comments for the Board's consideration.

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“When all comments have been received, I will close this Public Hearing – the Board will go into session to consider action on the proposed 2019-2020 Budget and Warrant Articles.

“Are there any questions about the procedure?”

#### **6. Questions from the Public.**

There were no questions at this time from the public or the press.

“Seeing no further questions, I declare this public hearing closed. The Board of Commissioner will reopen the session of the Merrimack Village District Board of Commissioners meeting upon conclusion of all Public Hearings for this evening.”

#### **7. Close Public Hearing**

The Public Hearings were declared closed at 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Rita Pointon, Recording Secretary