

**Board of Commissioners
Minutes
Regular Session
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

Financial Review – January 2019 – Michele Holton

M. Holton noted that preparation for the Public Hearing this evening took more time than anticipated and the financial review information is not available at this time, but would be sent out to the Commissioners when completed.

M. Holton explained that she would like to attend Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and New England Water Works Association (NEWWA) training, but both are the first week of April so it would be difficult to complete March month end for financial review. She asked whether the Board would consider moving the April meeting from April 15 to April 22. It was noted that the new date would be during school vacation. The Board asked that M. Holton allow the board to check their schedules (two commissioners excused from today's meeting) and then determine if the change was possible. M. Holton indicated she would follow up on this request.

1. Board of Commissioners to hear from Senator Shannon Chandley on her work at the State House as it pertains to Merrimack.

Senator Chandley introduced herself to the Commissioners and stated that she would like to know how she can be helpful to the District. She noted that she is eager to represent Merrimack especially regarding water issues. Currently there are 7 bills before the House and Senate regarding drinking water quality. Public Hearings on these bills are posted on the House and Senate websites. She noted that she can forward any information regarding these public hearing to R. Miner and he can forward it to others.

**2. Board of Commissioners to hear from Jamie Emery from EGGI
a. Present Final Report on the Preliminary Evaluation of AR at wells 4 & 5**

J. Emery explained that this project is designed to pump surface water most likely from the Merrimack River to increase the pumpage of water at wells 4 & 5. Perc tests were done at this site to determine the feasibility of this artificial recharge. There is a question of whether the soils will remove some organic materials from the river water pumped into the artificial recharge basin. The

Merrimack River has 3 to 4 ppt of PFOA, PFOS. J. Emery noted that 3,500 square feet of infiltration basins are needed. This would take the form of 3 basins. Permits would be needed for this project. There would be no need for a large groundwater withdrawal permit as the District already has one. Sodium and Chloride have risen in wells 4 & 5. The water from these basins would dilute these levels. A permit would be needed to drill under the railroad tracks for the piping. All the right elements are in place to make this a productive endeavor. The data is very favorable. The next step is a pilot test. A pump station would need to be built at the river bank. It is possible the Artificial Recharge could replace well #3 and this would allow well #3 to be used for backup.

D. Provencher noted, consistent with the past, that he believed the next step should include a preliminary cost estimate of all of the infrastructure, engineering, permitting, and the cost of land or an easement purchase that would be needed to achieve the artificial recharge goal. He also questioned whether DES looks at Artificial Recharge as Groundwater Under the Influence of Surface Water, and how pumping from the river is controlled during times of high turbidity, upstream sewer overflows, or contamination releases into the river.

b. Mitchell Woods Long Term Monitoring Report

D. Tinkham, EGGI, noted that one full year of baseline monitoring is complete at this site which is the minimum to apply to the state to put the well on line. Continued data collection for this year is required. This monitoring will determine any effect on the flora and fauna around the pumping of this well over time.

c. MVD Well Water Quality Graphs

J. Emery presented preliminary graphs of PFAS, sodium, chloride, iron, and manganese graphs and trends at Wells-2, 3, 7, & 8. J. Emery indicated that we will have to look at a mass balance of salt application, and make presentations to the Town, as the sodium and chloride levels at many wells are a concern, particularly at well-3.

3. Board of Commissioners to discuss UEI Power Point presentation for the Public Hearing with Keith Pratt.

K. Pratt went through the presentation he will give at the Public Hearing this evening. He noted that this presentation should take about 15 minutes at the Public Hearing.

4. Discussion Submitted by Commissioner Provencher

a. I am in favor of having lab test data sheets forwarded as soon as we receive them to anyone who wants them by perhaps creating an e-mail list on the MVD website so people can sign up via e-mail, and we can push out the lab results that e-mail list.

D. Provencher questioned whether an e-mail distribution list could be created with e-mail addresses of anyone who wanted to receive timely water quality data. J. Lavoie noted that she spoke with the MVD IT person about this. He said that if MVD were to create a large distribution list on the MVD website that the internet provider would think the site had been hacked to send spam emails and shut us down. She noted the results can be sent to e-mail addresses if the user contacts her with a specific request and provides their e-mail address. Currently there is only one member of the public that has requested to be sent the data as it comes in.

b. I am in favor of having the link to the DES spreadsheet directly on MVD's website in one click, to avoid the present fishing around to find it.

D. Provencher noted that the link on the NHDES website to the spreadsheet for lab test results requires 3 or more clicks and questioned whether this could be achieved in 1 click instead.

J. Lavoie indicated that a direct link to the DES PFAS water quality spreadsheet could be provided on the MVD website.

c. I will ask why we only test for the 14 and not the full 23 PFAS compounds, and what is the price difference, if any. (I was told we test for the 14 because the 8 compounds in the difference between the 14 and 23 are consistently non-detect.)

J. Lavoie noted that the cost difference is unknown, but she will contact the lab to get pricing.

5. Board of Commissioners to approve minutes from the December 17, 2018 Public Session (tabled from the 1/28/19 meeting) and the January 28, 2019 Public and Non-Public Sessions.

A motion was made by D. Provencher and seconded by T. Pellegrino to accept the minutes of December 17, 2018 with the following revisions:

Page 1, last paragraph, 3rd line from the bottom: the word “in” should be “is”;

Page 3, item 3: the sentence “J. Emery noted that graphs could be given to MVD staff to add data in the future.” should be added to the end of the first paragraph;

Page 3, item 3, second paragraph: the motion should be amended to include the words “in the amount of \$12,000” after the Proposal number;

Page 3, item 3, second paragraph: the sentence “The remaining balance of \$23,850 in the scope of work is to be funded by the next fiscal year budget and/or Capital Reserve Funds to the extent that funds are available.” should be added before the last sentence in the paragraph;

Page 4, first paragraph: the words “and PFAS” should be added in the last line after the words “study of peat”.

The motion passed 3-0-0.

A motion was made by D. Provencher and seconded by T. Pellegrino to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 28, 2019 as amended as follows pending the confirmation of the name in paragraph 1 of item 10:

Page 1, Financial Review, paragraph 2, 3rd line: the words “what specific engineering services were in” should be added after the words “He questioned” and before the words “the engineering account”;

Page 3, item 2, 4th line from the bottom of the paragraph: the words “and that the fund can be used in defense or initiation of future legal actions:” should be added after the words “unanticipated legal fees”;

Page 3, item 3, 1st paragraph: in the first sentence of the first paragraph the words “pulled from these wells” should be replaced with the words “drawn from wells 4 & 5 and sent to a laboratory”;

Page 3, item 3, 3rd paragraph: the word “usage” should be replaced by the word “selection”;

Page 3, item 3, paragraph 4: the motion was seconded by J. “Comer”;

Page 5, 3rd line from the bottom of the first paragraph: the word “noted” should be changed to “questioned whether”;

Page 5, item 8: the sentence “This information will be presented at a later date.” should be added to the end of the paragraph;

Page 6, item 10, 2nd paragraph: the sentence “D. Provencher suggested that MVD could send letters to grandfathered properties to request proactive alternatives to salt for de-icing.” should be added to the end of the paragraph.

The motion passed 3-0-0.

6. Superintendent's Report

Bond Hearing – R. Miner noted that there will be a bond hearing on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 6:00 PM in the Little Theatre at Merrimack High School for the two petitioned warrant articles.

Annual Meeting – The Annual Meeting of the Merrimack Village District will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 7:00 pm at JMUES.

7. New Business/Old Business

There was no new business or old business at this time.

8. Questions from the Public/Press

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

Adjourn

A motion was made by T. Pellegrino and seconded by D. Provencher to recess to the Public Hearing in the Little Theatre at Merrimack High School at 7:00 PM. The motion passed 3-0-0. The meeting recessed at 5:30 PM.

After the Public Hearings:

A motion was made and duly seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. The motion passed 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Pointon, Recording Secretary