MERRIMACK VILLAGE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MAY 20, 2019 PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES (approved June 17, 2019)

A Public Hearing was conducted by the Merrimack Village District Board of Commissioners on Monday, May 20, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at 2 Greens Pond Road, Merrimack, NH.

Chairman, Donald Provencher presided:

Members of the Board present:	Anthony Pellegrino, Personnel Liaison Kenneth Ayers
Members of the Board Absent:	Joseph Comer, Vice Chairman Wolfram von Schoen
Also in Attendance:	Ron Miner, Superintendent Jill Lavoie, Business Manager/Water Quality Support Michele Holton, Finance/H.R. Director

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Provencher explained, in accordance with NH RSA 40:13 and NH RSA 31:95-b, the purpose of the Public Hearing was to allow public input on:

Proposed Rate Increase Scheduled for July 1, 2019

Acceptance and Expenditure of up to \$405,000 from the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) for the Wells 4 & 5 Water Treatment Plant Project from the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund

Acceptance and Expenditure of up to \$20,000 from the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) for the PFAS Assessment Proximal to MVD Production Wells #7 and #8 from the Local Source Water Protection Grant

Notice of the Public Hearing was advertised in the May 12, 2019 edition of the Nashua Telegraph, posted on the Merrimack Village District website (<u>www.MVDWATER.org</u>), and at the MVD Office, the Merrimack Town Hall, Public Library, and Post Office.

1. Proposed Rate Increase Scheduled for July 1, 2019

Chairman Provencher opened the floor for public comment.

No public comment was offered.

Chairman Provencher referenced a letter from Underwood Engineering, giving a background of the rate increase. Chairman Provencher informed the Public that last fall Underwood Engineers completed a water rate update for MVD. That was issued on December 13, 2018, which recommended a 13% rate increase for the fiscal year 2020, based on information in the budget available at that time. Rate increase

corresponded with a 13% budget increase between fiscal years 2019 and 2020. Since the December letter report was provided budget information became final based on updated budget information which was higher than projected last fall. Underwood recommended a 19% rate adjustment for the fiscal year 2020. The 19% rate increase corresponds with a budget increase of 19% between fiscal years 2019 and 2020. Note that the 19% increase and assumptions on revenue, capital reserve contributions will vary more or less than the target of \$500,000 per year. That was the capital reserve contribution that was in the rate study that was done. Underwood recommends reviewing the rate model in February 2020 prior to recommending rates for fiscal year 2021 and beyond.

Chairman Provencher referenced a table showing the Rate Increase Recommendations for fiscal year 2020. Copies of this table are available at MVD. The current rate (usage charge) is \$1.95 per 100 cubic feet, and a 19% rate increase would bring this to \$2.32 per 100 cubic feet of water.

2. Acceptance and Expenditure of up to \$405,000 from the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) for the Wells 4 & 5 Water Treatment Plant Project from the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund

Chairman Provencher opened the floor for public comment.

No public comment was offered.

Chairman Provencher spoke of an \$810,000 shortfall, which was not covered in the Saint-Gobain agreement for wells 4 & 5 intended to cover things not related to Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) treatment that was part of the agreement; generator, upgrades. MVD applied for a \$405,000 grant, as well as putting in \$405,000 from capital reserves.

3. Acceptance and Expenditure of up to \$20,000 from the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) for the PFAS Assessment Proximal to MVD Production Wells #7 and #8 from the Local Source Water Protection Grant.

Chairman Provencher opened the floor for public comment.

No public comment was offered.

Chairman Provencher informed the public that this grant is related to the PFAS study being prepared by Emery & Garrett Groundwater, Inc., which includes installing monitoring wells, taking samples, determining if the PFAS detected in wells 7 & 8 is coming from groundwater that is contaminated from groundwater sources or from aerial deposition. Jamie Emery, President/CEO, Emery & Garrett, provided the MVD with a scope of work, previously approved, which totals \$32,500, of which MVD is providing funding of \$12,500.

The Public Hearing was declared closed at 7:09 pm.

Date: _____

Signed:

Submitted by Amanda McKenna, Recording Secretary