

**MERRIMACK VILLAGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 21, 2019
MEETING MINUTES
(Approved November 18, 2019)**

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was conducted on October 21, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at 2 Greens Pond Road, Merrimack, NH.

Chairman, Donald Provencher presided:

Members of the Board present: Joseph Comer, Vice Chairman
 Kenneth Ayers
 Wolfram von Schoen, electronic participation

Members of the Board Absent: Anthony Pellegrino, Personnel Liaison

Also in Attendance: Ron Miner, Superintendent
 Jill Lavoie, Business Manager
 Michele Holton, Finance/H.R. Director

As Commissioner W. von Schoen was participating electronically, in accordance with the Right to Know Law, Chairman D. Provencher requested he state, for the record; where he was, why his attendance in person was not reasonably practical, who, if anyone, was with him, and whether or not he was able to hear the proceedings.

Commissioner W. von Schoen responded he was in Germany for business, his attendance in person was not reasonably practical given his location, no one was with him, and he could hear the proceedings.

Chairman D. Provencher stated, for the record, those present at the meeting were able to hear Commissioner W. von Schoen and reminded the Board all votes would be taken by Roll Call.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VON SCHOEN THAT THE COMMISSION, BY ROLL CALL, GO INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION PURSUANT TO RSA 91-A:3, II (a); RSA 91-A:3, II(d); and RSA 91-A:3, II(e)

MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER AYERS

A Viva Voce Roll Call was conducted, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Donald Provencher, Joe Comer, Kenneth Ayers, Wolfram von Schoen,

4

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

The Commission went into non-public session at 4:05 p.m.

The Commission came out of non-public session at 5:00 p.m.

SEALING OF MINUTES

Board of Commissioners Non-Public Sessions October 21,
2019

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER K. AYERS TO SEAL THE MEETING MINUTES OF THE
OCTOBER 21, 2019 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING NON-PUBLIC SESSION
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER J. COMER**

A Viva Voce Roll Call was conducted, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Donald Provencher, Joe Comer, Kenneth Ayers, Wolfram von Schoen,
4
Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

FINANCIAL REVIEW – Michele Holton

Postponed

A. Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures Report

B. Bank Account Summary Review

REGULAR SESSION

**1. Board of Commissioners to discuss ongoing projects with Jamie Emery of Emery & Garrett
Groundwater Investigations to include:**

a) Sodium and Chloride reduction/mailling to property owners

At this time Jamie Emery of Emery & Garrett stated that he had been asked by the Board of Commissioners to put together a proposal to investigate the Sodium and Chloride elevation that has been seen in nearly all of MVD’s wells. He noted that Well 2 is above the recommended level of sodium for drinking water. Well 3 is above both the Sodium and Chloride recommended level for drinking water. Wells 7 & 8 are both above the recommended level of Sodium for drinking water.

J. Emery has prepared a proposal to provide components of a road salt mitigation plan to control sodium and chloride levels from continuing to rise in the MVD production wells. Task 1 of the

proposal is to conduct a meeting with selected stake holders. The stakeholders are outlined as follows:

1. Members of the Planning Board
2. Town Highway Department
3. State Highway Department
4. Merrimack Town Manager
5. Department of Public Works Director
6. Police and Fire Department Chiefs
7. Director of Community Development
8. Members of the public (two or three to be selected)

The goal is to have this meeting set up no later than early December, prior to heavy salt use. This meeting/presentation and follow up report with action items is priced out at \$5,500.

Task 2 is to provide input on groundwater protection strategies for the Planning Board's consideration and is not yet priced out. The details of this task will be refined at the meeting with stakeholders and then a detailed cost estimate will be provided.

Task 3 is to provide information to key property managers / prepare information for the web page. This will identify all property managers in the Well Head Protection Area (WHPA) and start to work on educating them.

Task 4 is to review the existing plow routes with the town and the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) within each WHPA and determine whether reduced salt or no salt application areas can be expanded. This will include a meeting and follow up discussion.

Task 5 is coordination with neighboring municipalities.

Task 6 is to send out a mailing with educational materials to inform all MVD customers about the problems associated with road salt use, identifying reduced or low salt zones, and provide recommendations to reduce salt use at homes/business.

Task 7 is to prepare and present an educational PowerPoint presentation on the sodium and chloride groundwater issue and present it to interested citizens groups and property owners.

Task 8 is to generate a regional map of sodium and chloride levels within the WHPAs. This will be accomplished by using existing monitoring wells in the MVD monitoring network, conductivity datalogger information, and collection of additional sodium and chloride levels in strategic monitoring wells. This map will be presented to the MVD Commissioners once completed and can be used for developing strategic groundwater quality mitigation plans. The estimated cost of Task 8 is \$8,300.

At this time, J. Emery is asking the MVD to consider Task 1 and Task 8. He noted that he would like to use Task 8 for data to present at scheduled meetings. Task 1 and Task 8 total \$13,800.

Business Manager J. Lavoie stated that this appears to be an aggressive schedule to be completed by December and asked if it was manageable. J. Emery noted that he is only looking for Task 1 to be completed by December.

Chairman D. Provencher asked how wells 7 & 8 would be handled as they have WHPAs in multiple towns. J. Emery referenced Task 5, meeting with neighboring municipalities.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER W. VON SCHOEN TO ACCEPT TASKS 1 AND 8 OF THE PROPOSAL PRESENTED BY J. EMERY OF EMERY & GARRETT
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER J. COMER**

A Viva Voce Roll Call was conducted, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Donald Provencher, Joe Comer, Kenneth Ayers, Wolfram von Schoen,

4

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

b) Witches Brook PFAS investigation

Jamie Emery informed the commission that the Witches Brook investigation is going well. The Governor's council approval has been granted. Piezometers have been installed. PFAS samples have been collected at both Witches Brook and the monitoring wells. The water quality data will be back in the next few weeks. The interim report has been submitted and approved. This project has been partially funded by the Source Water Protection Grant (SWPG) and requires periodic reports. The SWPG funded \$20,000 and an additionally \$12,500 was funded by MVD.

It was noted that the goal is to determine if the PFAS contamination at wells 7 & 8 is coming from aerial deposition or from groundwater contamination and will help MVD determine how to better protect their wells.

c) Artificial Recharge

J. Emery noted that there had been discussions surrounding taking water from the Merrimack River, and whether or not it could be done. He informed the commission that Pennichuck Water Works in Nashua, NH, is taking 100% of their drinking water from the Merrimack River at this time due to Pennichuck Brook being contaminated. The Merrimack River is showing roughly 2 ppt – 6 ppt of PFOA. The full cost of MVD taking this route has not yet been calculated, but this route does appear to be a feasible option.

J. Emery informed the commission that he and Superintendent R. Miner had spoken with the proposed landowner. He noted that the landowner does not seem opposed to running the pipeline from the river, across their property, to the railroad, and over to MVD property.

J. Emery stated that three of the fatal flaws he was worried about have now been crossed.

d) Sodium and Chloride reduction/mailing to property owners: part 2

At this time, Business Manager J. Lavoie requested that J. Emery send along the most up to date graphs to include in the town mailing regarding sodium and chloride levels. He noted that he would. The commissioners would like to see the graphs included in the mailing, in a small but legible format. Wells 2, 3, & 5 show the greatest concern and will be represented in the mailing.

J. Emery had provided edits to the drafted letter. Chairman D. Provencher stated that he was fine with the edits J. Emery had provided.

2. Board of Commissioners to discuss Capital Projects with Underwood Engineers to include:

a) Wells 2 & 3 design progress

Mike Metcalf, of Underwood Engineers, informed the commission that the site plan for wells 2 & 3 is just about complete. The site plan considers a potential future office as well as expandability based on potential need for future iron and manganese treatment at well 2. Results of testing have not yet shown this need but that may change with a higher pumping rate.

The survey has been done and property boundaries are included. The Geotech fieldwork has been done, but the report is not yet complete.

The Rapid Small Scale Column Test (RSSCT) results are back and are showing that regulated compounds are proving greater than 18 months before breakthrough. The short chain compounds are showing confusing results. The breakthrough time is shorter, which was expected, and in some cases, there is greater effluent than influent. Further investigation will take place. Underwood is working to get Jim Malley, from the University of New Hampshire, involved to help with a better understanding.

Peter Pitsas, with Underwood Engineers, informed the commission that there are multiple options for the routing of the raw water main. One option is to come down Continental Boulevard and another is to route along Naticook Brook behind the old Atrium building. P. Pitsas noted that routing along the brook did not seem feasible due to the terrain. He also noted that there has been discussion of routing through the MVD maintenance area, going across Continental Blvd., over to Camp Sargent Road where there is an existing AC (Asbestos Cement) line. There is discussion of pipe bursting versus open excavation. Pipe bursting would be faster and does not require an open trench. Research has shown environmental concern when bursting existing asbestos cement, and therefore does not appear to be a completely viable option. Another option is to run open trench excavation near the existing asbestos cement without destroying the AC. Additionally, this could be routed via Continental Blvd, between the road and the existing pipe. This may minimally damage the road and require paving repairs. A third option would be to receive an easement from the current owners of the old Atrium property and running a line there. Chairman D. Provencher noted that he was in favor of approaching the old Atrium property. Business Manager J. Lavoie informed the commission that she would make the initial contact, putting them in touch with Underwood.

It was noted by M. Metcalf that Asbestos mains are perfectly safe while in use. It is only when they are cut or broken that they become an environmental concern.

b) Wells 4 & 5 treatment plant construction

Peter Pitsas, with Underwood Engineers, is the construction project manager for wells 4 & 5. He informed the commission that site has been cleared of trees and stumps. The existing buildings have been demolished and the existing wells are still present. The footings for the new building have been installed. Foundation should be completed by October 25, 2019. They are currently working on site piping as well as the gravel road.

P. Pitsas informed the commission that the Evoqua shop drawing for the treatment vessel has been submitted. PENTA has told Underwood to contact Evoqua directly for any concerns, followed by Underwood sending a summery explanation to PENTA. This will help to streamline the process.

M. Metcalf informed the commission that Barry Miller, who works on the wells, brought up that well 4 is over 50 years old and has a liner screen (put in roughly 20 years ago), because the original bronze screen has corroded. It is in the spec to clean and redevelop the well. Miller is concerned that this may cause the bronze screen to corrode further, causing collapse and therefore causing the pumping of sand and/or gravel. Miller suggested replacing the well. Replacement is estimated at roughly \$150,000. He suggested a more streamline replacement process. This would require drilling a casing over the existing casing and bailing everything out of the existing casing for replacement. M. Metcalf stated that this is essentially a well rehab. Underwood will need to connect with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to see if this is doable without a ton of permitting costs. Commissioner K. Ayers asked if this would impact the construction timeline, to which M. Metcalf stated that it would not.

It was noted that well 5 does not have a bronze screen.

c) Wells 7 & 8 60% drawings

P. Pitsas informed the commission that the preliminary design and the 60% design for wells 7 & 8 have been submitted. The 60% design is roughly 4 weeks ahead of target. He noted that the building addition is a straight addition and the roof line will be the same. Additional heaters and dehumidifiers will be added into the new room. The existing 500-gallon LP tank runs out quickly in the winter and will be replaced with a 2,000-gallon tank. There will be two 15-foot diameter GAC vessels put in, with room left for two 12 foot, possibly 15-foot, resin vessels.

P. Pitsas noted that the roof is designed to be taken apart to allow room to lower a resin tank in, if needed. A flat area has been left in the back of the building for use by a crane to lower a resin tank into the building. A 12x16 knock out wall has also been included for possible future needs.

P. Pitsas stated that Underwood has started applying for the Shorelands permit because the infiltration basin will need to go within 250 feet of the shoreland of the water body. This will require on alteration of terrain permit. There is discussion of placing the infiltration basin elsewhere.

At this time, P. Pitsas informed the commission of the Opinion of Cost. This includes contractor overhead and profit as well as a 20% contingency. At the 30% design (preliminary report) the estimate was \$4M and is currently projecting \$4.15M. This increase includes a potential structural component, which may be lower than reflected. Some of the higher cost may be artificial and will be investigated.

At this time, Commissioner W. von Schoen excused himself from the meeting.

d) Town Council presentation 10/23/19

The commission was informed that Town Council presentation was designed to inform the Town Council of updates on what is being done with wells 4 & 5, 7 & 8, 2 & 3, and the Turkey Hill Booster.

3. Board of Commissioners to hear update on Saint Gobain main extensions and private well hookups

Superintendent R. Miner informed the commission that the Saint Gobain water line extensions on Wire Road, Knollwood Drive and Ridgewood Drive are complete. There are five services left to install and the contractor is waiting on directional drillers.

A letter has been sent out by Saint Gobain announcing available (bottled) water to additional residences. This may lead to future water connections.

4. Board of Commissioners to review the minutes from the September 16, 2019 Public and Non-Public sessions

Postponed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board of Commissioners Public Session September 16, 2019

Board of Commissioners Non-Public Sessions September 16, 2019

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman D. Provencher informed the commission that he has not yet put together a thank you letter to the Drinking Water Groundwater Trust Fund.

Commissioner K. Ayers asked for an update on Zeolite. Chairman D. Provencher noted that information had been provided via emails which have been forwarded to Underwood Engineers for review. Superintendent R. Miner informed the commission that he would reach out to Mike Metcalf with Underwood for an update.

NEW BUSINESS – None

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent R. Miner informed the commission that the pre-bid meeting for the Turkey Hill Booster project was on October 16, 2019 and the bid opening will be on October 29, 2019. He also noted that two new MVD employees have been hired. Jim Young was hired on September 26, 2019, and John Foss on October 14, 2019.

Superintendent R. Miner will be out of the office from October 23, 2019 until November 1, 2019.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – None

QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS - None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER J. COMER TO ADJOURN

MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER K. AYERS

MOTION CARRIED

3-0-0

The October 21, 2019 meeting of the Board of Commissioners was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Submitted by Amanda McKenna, Recording Secretary