

**MERRIMACK VILLAGE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 09, 2020  
MEETING MINUTES  
(approved December 21, 2020)**

A special meeting of the Board of Commissioners was conducted on November 09, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. at 2 Greens Pond Road, Merrimack, NH.

Chairman, Donald Provencher presided via electronic participation:

Members of the Board present:      Wolfram von Schoen, Vice Chairman (electronic participation)  
  John Lyons, Personnel Liaison, (electronic participation)  
  Kenneth Ayers (electronic participation)  
  Paul McLaughlin (electronic participation)

Members of the Board Absent:

Also in Attendance:                      Ron Miner, Superintendent  
  Jill Lavoie, Business Manager

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**1. Board of Commissioners to discuss letter to the Planning Board relative to the Flatley Property.**

*\*\*\* At this time, Commissioner Paul McLaughlin excused himself from this matter as he also sits on the Planning Board \*\*\**

Chairman D. Provencher informed the public of the background of this topic, explaining that Flatley owns multiple properties adjacent to Saint Gobain and is proposing further development. While watching Flatley’s presentation to the Planning Board Chairman D. Provencher noticed a few inconsistencies and concerns. Chairman D. Provencher drafted a letter to present to the Planning Board, should the MVD Board of Commissioners so choose. Chairman D. Provencher noted his biggest concern to be that Flatly is not planning to recharge any of the storm water on site, at the recommendation of NHDES, for fear of mobilizing additional PFAS contamination in the groundwater. Chairman D. Provencher stated his concern that the Planning Board will move forward to approve the project without a comprehensive PFAS remediation plan for the properties. Chairman D. Provencher informed the commission that NHDES has represented in the past that there will be comprehensive remediation proposed for that site that could include pumping and treating of the groundwater as well as collection of the contaminated soils and remediating or capping the soils. These properties are within the Well Head Protection Area (WHPA) for Wells 4 & 5.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER D. PROVENCHER TO ISSUE THE LETTER TO THE PLANNING BOARD, DATED NOVEMBER 10, 2020, AS WRITTEN.**

**MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER K. AYERS**

*A Viva Voce was conducted, which resulted as follows:*

Yea: Donald Provencher, Wolf von Schoen, Kenneth Ayers, John Lyons  
4  
Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**4-0-1**

*Commissioner P. McLaughlin abstained*

*\*\*\* Commissioner P. McLaughlin rejoined the commissioners meeting at 5:18 p.m. \*\*\**

**2. Board of Commissioners to discuss Underwood Engineers, Inc ESR #57 Water Audit and Conservation Rates**

Keith Pratt stated that at the last MVD meeting the commissioners spoke about wanting to hold off on a financial model update in terms of revenues and budgets and will target the rate adjustments that were laid out within the last two years. He noted that the commissioners had wanted to focus on the non-revenue water and the conservation rate structures in an effort to reduce peak demands. The suggestion of Underwood Engineers was to do audit work in order to better target the efforts. ESR #75 outlines Task 1, Water Audit, with a cost of \$3,000. Task 2, Conservation Rate Development, will use the most recent rate model to develop a tiered conservation rate option to meet existing revenue needs. This will also show how the conservation rate will impact various user classes differently. Task 2 has a cost of \$12,000. K. Pratt explained that an allowance of \$2,000 was also added to ESR #57 if the board chooses to pursue one of these rate structures. The allowance is to help cover meetings and public hearings. The total of ESR #57 is \$17,000. K. Pratt informed the commission that there are various outstanding task orders that are no longer needed, totaling roughly \$8,000. He noted that they could close those out to lessen the impact of ESR #57.

Vice Chairman W. von Schoen noted that the last established rate increase appears to be working for MVD and he is hesitant to vote for an additional rate increase. Vice Chairman W. von Schoen noted that he believes the tiered rate should focus on the cost for additional water sources and artificial recharge projects to close the gap during peak usage months. K. Pratt explained to the commissioners that the work outlined in ESR #57 was not to look at the rate recommendations that were made previously, but to look at what would happen if Underwood redesigned the rates using that model.

Vice Chairman W. von Schoen stated that all of Merrimack water needs to be filtered, not just drinking water, as irrigation water comes through the same water lines and any excess usage also drives up the cost for PFAS filtration, which is the reason for this initiative.

K. Pratt noted that when debt services start to hit, MVD does need to be sure that the rates are adjusted accordingly.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER J. LYONS TO APPROVE ESR #57, DATED OCTOBER 28, 2020, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,000, WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM THE OPERATING BUDGET.**

**MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER W. VON SCHOEN**

*A Viva Voce was conducted, which resulted as follows:*

Yea: Donald Provencher, Wolf von Schoen, Kenneth Ayers, John Lyons, Paul McLaughlin

5

Nay:

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**MOTION CARRIED**

**5-0-0**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER W. VON SCHOEN TO ADJOURN**

**MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER J. LYONS**

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

Yea: Donald Provencher, Wolfram von Schoen, Ken Ayers, John Lyons, Paul McLaughlin

5

Nay:

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**MOTION CARRIED**

The November 09, 2020 meeting of the Board of Commissioners was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Submitted by Amanda McKenna, Recording Secretary