

**MERRIMACK VILLAGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 28, 2022
PUBLIC HEARING
MEETING MINUTES
(approved March 21, 2022)**

A Public Hearing was conducted by the Merrimack Village District Board of Commissioners on Monday, February 28, 2022 at 7:01 p.m. at 38 McElwain St, Merrimack, NH.

Chairman, Donald Provencher presided:

Members of the Board present: John Lyons, Personnel Liaison
 Kenneth Ayers
 Paul McLaughlin

Members of the Board Absent: Wolfram von Schoen, Vice Chairman

Also in Attendance: Ron Miner, Superintendent
 Jill Lavoie, Business Manager/Water Quality Support
 Michele Holton, Finance Director/Human Resources

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Provencher explained the purpose of the Public Hearing was to allow public input regarding:

Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Proposed Operating Budget

Warrant Articles for the 2022 Annual Meeting scheduled for March 29, 2022

Notice of the Public Hearing was advertised in the February 16-18, 2022 on line editions of the Nashua Telegraph and the February 19, 2022 printed edition. The Public Hearing notice was also posted on the Merrimack Village District website (www.MVDWATER.org), at the Merrimack Village District Office, The Merrimack Town Hall, and the Merrimack Town Post Office.

Merrimack Village District Proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and the Warrant Articles for the 2022 Annual Meeting

The Commissioners proceeded with a reading of the individual Warrant Articles:

ARTICLE 1: To choose one (1) Commissioners for a three-year (3) term of office.

The purpose of this article is to allow you to vote for your choice of a candidate for office. If you would like to vote for someone whose name is not on the ballot, simply write in the candidate's name of your choice in the space provided on the ballot. (Written ballot vote required).

ARTICLE 2: To choose one (1) District Moderator for a two-year (2) term of office.

The purpose of this article is to allow you to vote for your choice of a candidate for office. If you would like to vote for someone whose name is not on the ballot, simply write in the candidate's name of your choice in the space provided on the ballot. (Written ballot vote required).

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Merrimack Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four million eight hundred eleven thousand eight hundred forty-six dollars (\$4,811,846) for general municipal operations for the 2022-2023 fiscal year with said sum to come from water related charges. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required)

This is the operating budget warrant article. This article funds the operation of the District for the year beginning July 1, 2022 ending June 30, 2023 for all departments; Administration, Distribution, Treatment, Debt Services and Insurance/Benefits.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Merrimack Village District vote to establish a contingency fund, pursuant to RSA 52:4-a, by raising and appropriating the amount of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to meet the cost of unanticipated expenses that may arise during the fiscal year 2022-2023 with said funds to come from water charges? (Majority vote required).

RSA 52:4-a states:

“Every village district annually by an article in the warrant may establish a contingency fund to meet the cost of unanticipated expenses that may arise during the year. Such fund shall not exceed one percent of the amount appropriated exclusive of capital expenditures and amortization of debt by such village district during the preceding year. A detailed report of all expenditures from the contingency fund shall be made annually by the commissioners and published with the report.”

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Merrimack Village District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to add to the District's Non-Capital Reserve Fund under provisions of RSA 35:1-c, for the purpose of emergency water and/or the operations and maintenance of GAC Treatment facilities. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required)

The purpose of this article is to use a portion of the unassigned fund balance to be set aside for future use in the District's Non-Capital Reserve Fund. Should the need for emergency water and/or unanticipated operations and maintenance of the GAC Treatment facilities arise in future years the Board of Commissioners would have these funds available for such purposes.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Merrimack Village District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred thirty-six thousand nine hundred twenty-three dollars (\$236,923) under provisions of RSA 35:1, I and II to add to the District's "System Development Capital Reserve" fund for the future system expansion and improvement of the existing system? This sum to come from the fiscal year 2020-2021 unassigned fund balance; these are the system development charges collected during the 2020-2021 budget year. (Majority vote required)

The MVD's Board of Commissioners adopted a System Development Charge (SDC) on August 19, 2008. This charge is applied to "new" customers and those existing customers who increase their water service demand beyond 20% of their current or prior use. The charge can best be described as a "buy-in" fee to achieve an equal equity position with the existing customers. This one-time payment will cover their share of the value of the existing infrastructure. Fire service entrances are not subject to the SDC. The "System Development Charge Use of Funds" policy (08-02-B) was approved by the BOC on 10/27/08.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Merrimack Village District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) under provisions of RSA 35:1, I and II to add to the District’s “Equipment and Facilities Capital Reserve” fund for associated costs with existing storage, transmission and production of water? This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required).

The purpose of this article is to us a portion of the revenue surplus to be set aside for future use in the District’s Equipment and Facilities capital reserve fund. Should an emergency arise in future years, for which there was no appropriation, or should there be need for an unforeseen special piece of machinery in a pump station, for example, the Board of Commissioners would have these funds available for such purposes. This fund was established by the March 26, 1996 Annual Meeting.

Chairman Provencher opened the floor for public comment.

No public comment was offered.

Chairman Provencher opened the floor for comments from the press.

No comment was offered.

The Public Hearing was declared closed at 7:07 pm.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER K. AYERS TO REOPEN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC MEETING
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER P. MCLAUGHLIN**

**MOTION CARRIED
3-0-0**

The Commission reopened the Public session at 7:09 p.m.

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Submitted by Amanda McKenna, Recording Secretary