

**MERRIMACK VILLAGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 22, 2022
PUBLIC HEARING
MEETING MINUTES
(approved September 19, 2022)**

A Public Hearing was conducted by the Merrimack Village District Board of Commissioners on Monday, August 22, 2022 at 5:04 p.m. at 2 Greens Pond Road, Merrimack, NH.

Chairman Donald Provencher presided:

Members of the Board present: Wolfram von Schoen
 Paul McLaughlin
 John Lyons (electronic participation)

Members of the Board Absent: Kenneth Ayers

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

PUBLIC HEARING

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

Proposed Rate Increase For Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Notice of the second Public Hearing was posted on the Merrimack Village District website (www.MVDWATER.org), and at the Merrimack Town Hall, Public Library, and Post Office.

Proposed Rate Increase For Fiscal Year 2022-2023

At this time, Keith Pratt, of Underwood Engineers, gave a brief recap of the rate increase for fiscal year 2022-2023. He stated that MVD has an 11% rate increase in front of them and noted that the tiered rate structure will go up 11% as well. Pratt stated that the purpose for the 11% is not inconsistent with what was laid out in 2017-2018 when the \$14.5M warrant article was passed for the treatment facilities. At that time, an overall rate increase of 79% was projected. This 11% increase will bring MVD close to those projections, but Underwood expects one more rate increase will be needed.

Chairman Provencher opened the floor for public comment.

Ben Niles, of Merrimack, made the following remarks:

I would like to add the perspective that I think that what you are doing is reasonable and aside from being reasonable is very necessary. We have to deal with the PFOA issues we have in our water supply, and I think Merrimack Village District has done an excellent job over the years, versus, say, the state average. I'm happy to see that we're moving forward with implementation of necessary steps to improve the water quality. The one thing that I would like, in terms of the future standards, when it comes to your regular session, could you talk about the EPA advisory of 2022 where they are

looking to move the minimum reporting level from 4 parts per trillion (ppt) to a health advisory level of 4 parts per quadrillion, which is like a thousand-fold increase, and is that scientifically feasible? What's our approach to it? I don't necessarily think you'll have all those answers today but honestly, what I'm pointing out is that the EPA is looking to really tighten the PFAS or PFOA standards if they implement in 2023, their 2022 health advisory. I just want to put that on the table for any comment that may be available today, and if not, that it can be looked at and discussed in future meetings.

Chairman D. Provencher noted that the commissioners were well aware of that and can discuss it during the regular session. Commissioner W. von Schoen thanked Mr. Niles for his support.

No further comments or questions were offered.

The Public Hearing was declared closed at 5:15 pm.