

**MERRIMACK VILLAGE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
DECEMBER 20, 2021  
MEETING MINUTES  
(approved January 24, 2022)**

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was conducted on December 20, 2021, at 4:31 p.m. at 2 Greens Pond Road, Merrimack, NH.

Chairman, Donald Provencher presided electronically:

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

Members of the Board Absent:       Kenneth Ayers

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

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*The December Board of Commissioners meeting was held via electronic participation due to increasing numbers of Covid-19. As stated on the agenda, webinar and telephone access were available for members of the public wishing to participate.*

*Members of the Board were participating via Zoom. In accordance with RSA 91-A:2 III, each member of the Board was asked to state, for the record, where they were, and who, if anyone, was with them.*

**Roll call of Board members and their locations**

- Don Provencher (Chairman) stated he was participating electronically from home at 6 Wasserman Heights, Merrimack
- Wolf von Schoen (Vice Chairman) stated he was participating electronically from home at 4 Conservation Drive, Merrimack.
- Paul McLaughlin stated he was participating electronically from home at 326 Baboosic Lake Road, Merrimack, NH.
- John Lyons stated he was participating electronically from home at 25 Windsor Drive in Merrimack.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER W. VON SCHOEN THAT THE COMMISSION 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 J. LYONS**

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

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

4

Nay:

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**MOTION CARRIED**  
**4-0-0**

*The Commission went into non-public session at 4:32 p.m.*

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

**SEALING OF MINUTES**

Board of Commissioners Non-Public Sessions . . . . . December 20,  
2021

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER W. VON SCHOEN TO SEAL THE MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
DECEMBER 20, 2021 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING NON-PUBLIC SESSION  
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER J. LYONS**

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

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

4

Nay:

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**MOTION CARRIED**  
**4-0-0**

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**A. Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures Report**

Michele Holton, Finance/H.R. Director, informed the Commission that having completed the month of November, Merrimack Village District (MVD) is over 41.67% through the fiscal year. Current year income is coming in at \$2.17M and expenses are at \$1.53M. The net ordinary income totaled \$637,000, which is \$215,000 above the net ordinary income at this point last year. Director Holton explained that the revenues for this year are at 48.56% of the total year budget, compared to last year at the same time being 44.6%. She noted that the expenses for both years came in at 34.3%. Vice Chairman W. von Schoen noted that it was originally planned for the Wells 7 & 8 addition to be completed by September and the debt services would have started in October. Director Holton explained that all treatment plants related to the petition warrant article, for which the grants and loans are being received, are being treated as one project. The first payment due will not be until one year from substantial completion of Wells 2 & 9. Substantial completion is expected to be fall of 2022, with the first payment expected to be due in Fall of 2023. She explained that the upcoming payment is for Turkey Hill and the first payment will be due in January 2022.

Director Holton directed the commissioners to the Income Budget vs Actual Report and explained that all of the revenue lines are coming in well above the percentage of the total budget at this point

in the year, except for a few. She noted that interest rates are not where they have previously been, leaving account 40405 off. Account 40410 is currently under review. Account 40412, backflow, is currently back on schedule, it was noted that most of the testing happens in the second half of the year. Director Holton then directed the commissioners to the expense line items. She noted account 50202, Field Staff Overtime, stating that multiple main breaks have created a need for greater field staff overtime than anticipated. She also noted that the Purchase of Water is over budget and informed the commissioners that she would be meeting with Superintendent R. Miner to determine the best way to track this moving forward. Commissioner J. Lyons asked if the emergency rate had been approved. Business Manager J. Lavoie answered that the emergency rate of \$0.67 had been approved and they were waiting on the special contract to be approved.

### **B. Bank Account Summary Review**

Director Holton informed the commissioners that TD Bank would be on site on December 21<sup>st</sup> to review fraud protection. There are a few programs MVD has been discussing with TD Bank in order to better protect against fraud. Director Holton also noted that both account 10102, and account 10170, have funds that are due back to the operating account. A reconciliation will be done to reimburse the operating account.

At this time, Chairman D. Provencher asked if there was an update on the treasurer position. Director Holton answered that there are two potential candidates that she will be circling back with and following up with a reposting of the position. In the interim, Kathy will continue in the position of Treasurer.

## **REGULAR SESSION**

### **1. Board of Commissioners to hear project updates from Emery & Garrett Groundwater, to include:**

#### **a) 70 Wilson Hill Road update**

Jamie Emery, of Emery & Garrett, informed the commissioners that the drilling for the test wells at 70 Wilson Hill Road was taking place December 20-22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be two test wells.

#### **b) Salt Mitigation update**

Emery informed the commissioners that Emery & Garrett Groundwater had a meeting with Fidelity Investments on Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup>, which he felt went well. He gave a summary of the meeting, noting that Fidelity gave indication they would be treating 70% less surface area lots again this year. Fidelity is still working with WIT Advisor, Phil Sexton, on submitting a full mitigation plan in March 2022. Emery stated that MVD will want to review the mitigation plan in good detail. Fidelity will use the data collected this winter to put into their full-scale mitigation plan. Fidelity now has heated walkways in front of Sparta Way and plan on completing a heated walkway in front of 2 Contra Way. Fidelity had intended to install cameras to track weather and salt use in their salted areas, but the equipment was broken upon receipt, and has been reordered. Emery stated that Fidelity has had very detailed meetings with their sustainability group. The consultant and contractor who applies the salt stated that he felt Fidelity was on task with moving forward with MVD's goals. Salt use will be closely

monitored and tracked with each storm. Fidelity plans to use a non-salt brine at all entrance features. Fidelity indicated their plan to be salt-free by 2024 remains. Emery reminded the commissioners that a grant was put in for signage and stated that Fidelity would work with MVD on the signage. Emery also stated that all of Fidelity's snow applicators are Green SnowPro certified, as are their consultants. All of Fidelity's contractors must now go through ISO 14000 series training. Emery explained that this is one of the more rigorous environmental training programs and indicates to Fidelity that everyone is on the same page with a goal to be more environmentally sensitive and responsive. Emery reminded the commissioners that they previously raised a question as to whether Fidelity could state their support of MVD's no salt policies in a public forum. Emery stated that Fidelity did indicate that they were speaking with their government affairs person at a corporate level. Emery noted his comfort with Fidelity's willingness to take this seriously and to move in the right direction.

**c) Mitchell Woods update**

J. Emery informed the commissioners that they are still trying to get a timeframe from Barry Miller for the Mitchell Woods pump test. However, Barry Miller has told Emery & Garrett that they will be able to perform the pump test in January 2022. It was clarified that the pump test will be on the production well.

**d) Status of Pump test report of well 9 update**

Emery explained to the commissioners that the Well 9 Pump test was complicated and challenging to digest and compile. At this time, he pulled up a map showing the area of Well 9 and noted the vernal pool and wetlands. Emery stated that there are approximately 30 monitoring locations. MVD Well 9 and Well 2 were pumped at the same time. MVD 2 was pumped for 15 days (361 hours), taking nearly 22 million gallons. This used roughly 8.7% of the available draw down. The final specific capacity of Well 2 is 170 gpm/ft. Well 9 was pumped for 6 days, taking 8.6 million gallons. The final water level drawdown was roughly 7 feet. He noted there is still 50 feet of available drawdown. This used 14% of available draw down and the specific capacity of Well 9 is 140 gpm/ft. Emery informed the commissioners that a specific capacity over 30 is excellent.

At this time, Emery briefly reviewed the water chemistry, noting that iron was low throughout, with no real trends, and hardness stayed the same (pH is around 6 at the end, which he stated is common). Emery stated that he wanted to share how "unbelievably good" the water quality remained after the entirety of the pumping test. He noted that there was no nitrate whatsoever, which was significant in the sense that there is no influence from septic symptoms. Emery stated that PFOA was at 23, PFOS 27, and both PFNA and PFHxS are at non detect. He also noted that the microparticulate analysis, which indicates if the well is directly under the influence of surface water, showed a numerical score of 0. This is all positive. Emery informed the commissioners that from the standpoint of comparison with MVD 2, the manganese is low in both, the arsenic is low in both, the chloride is almost identical, the sodium is almost identical, the hardness is within the same range, as is PFHxS and PFOA, iron is similar, and the PFOS levels are slightly higher in Well 9. He stated that Well 2 and Well 9 have very similar water quality. Emery explained to the commissioners that the interference between running Wells 2 & 9 simultaneously, is slightly under 2 feet. When Well 9 was shut off, Well 2 recovered and stabilized, and when both wells were off the water level quickly recovered to pre-pumping levels. He noted that these were good signs.

Emery informed the commissioners that there is likely an impact associated with pumping, as shown at MVD Well 12-6, that will need to be sorted out with NHDES as to how meaningful that impact is. He noted that it is helpful that data was collected for an extended period of time. Emery stated that he would like to be able to submit a report to NHDES for review in February. Emery also informed the board that MVD will want to use Greens Pond to their advantage, doing instantaneous releases, in order to artificially recharge the basin. It was noted that Greens Pond could be slightly impounded and released in the summer based on need. Emery made it clear that there would be some dialogue with NHDES but stated that he is of the opinion that MVD will be able to use this well for the future.

**2. Board of Commissioners to hear project updates from Underwood Engineers, Inc to include:**

**a) Wells 7 & 8 update**

Peter Pitsas, of Underwood Engineers, provided an update on Wells 7 & 8, reminding the commissioners that at the last meeting he noted the vessels had just been set and the contractor was working on his schedule. Since that meeting, the roof has been installed on that section of the building, the staging was set up inside, the ceiling has been installed, part of the insulation has been installed (the foam is in, the blown in insulation is expected to be installed this week), and the staging is being disassembled. The GAC is scheduled for delivery on January 10, 2022. The goal is to start the vessel as soon as possible. With the testing procedures and timing, the goal is to have Wells 7 & 8 online around mid-February. There will not be full SCADA control of the GAC at that point but is expected for early March. This will still allow for water treatment starting in mid-February. Chairman D. Provencher asked if the tank was inspected and okay. Pitsas explained that they hired the company TEAM and they were able to test the tank in place with all of the piping on. Because of this, when the inspection happens a second time, shortly before the 5-year bond expires, they will be able to perform the exact test. Vice Chairman W. von Schoen noted that he believed it to only be a 2-year bond. Superintendent R. Miner stated that he believed it to be a 5-year bond, but he would double check the information. Chairman D. Provencher asked if the greensand vessels would need to be flushed at some point, and Pitsas explained that they are currently being flushed daily to prevent bacteria from developing. Superintendent R. Miner corrected this, stating that he believes it is every couple of days, rather than daily.

P. Pitsas informed Superintendent R. Miner that Underwood is looking to set up a pre-start up meeting after the New Year.

**b) Well 2 update**

Pitsas informed the commissioners that the contractor has the GAC block wall completed. They are preparing to start the lower walls, which will be the chem room and administration room. With the incoming colder weather, it is believed that this will have to be tented and heated. Most of the concrete slabs are completed and the admin/chem block walls are expected to be completed by late January. The trusses on the GAC are going to be installed late January and on the chem/admin area in early February. The roofing system is expected to be fully installed by late February. The vessels are scheduled to be shipped on January 10, 2022. Pitsas reminded the commissioners that at the last meeting he had informed them of a ship date of December 15, 2021, but Evoqua has changed this in order to ship all at once, as stated in the contract. Pitsas noted that the new date lines up nicely for the contractor. Pitsas stated that at the last meeting he informed the commissioners that the substantial completion

date was expected to be August 26, 2022, however, the expected substantial completion date has changed to September 1, 2022. The contractual substantial completion date is September 11, 2022.

Pitsas informed the commissioners that a change order for the Well 9 work has been signed.

**c) Well 4 update**

Pitsas informed the board members that the contractor finished his last item from the punch list and a payment request has been submitted to the District. This concludes Penta's Well 4 & 5 project.

At this time, Chairman D. Provencher directed attention to the breakthrough graphs and the raw water graphs that had been provided by Underwood. He asked if MVD is still able to treat the water or if there is a projected date as to when the media will need to be changed out. Pitsas informed the commissioners that he brought Lynnette Carney along with him because she has been tracking this but noted that the raw water looks stable at Wells 4 & 5. He noted that the one raw water graph that stood out was Well 2, which appeared to be edging up in August, September, and October. November's data was not yet available. L. Carney asked if there had been anything different, operationally, the last few months. Chairman D. Provencher answered that the only thing he could think of was the pump test on Well 9, which is in the same aquifer. He also noted that the well pump was also replaced and is likely pumped at a higher rate. Superintendent R. Miner echoed this and stated that MVD is now pumping Well 2 at 1,100 gpm. Prior to the pump replacement, Well 2 was being pumped at around 900 gpm. Carney asked if Well 2 was running at the same time that Well 9 was being pump tested. Chair D. Provencher answered that it was. It was noted that MVD shut off Well 2 in October when they began purchasing water from Pennichuck Water Works (PWW). The water is still being sampled monthly, but MVD has not yet received the results. At this time, Chairman D. Provencher shared the graphs, which included breakthrough graphs. L. Carney informed the commissioners that the new piece of information, as of the October sampling, is that PFOA broke through the 50% port on the lead vessel. Carney noted that they are at 49% of the bed life warranty with Evoqua, and this seems to be tracking well.

Commissioner J. Lyons noted that the graph shows that 20% of the PFOA has broken through at the 50% port and asked what level of PFOA that represents. Carney explained that it includes regulated long chains and short chains and is based on the raw water sample. Pitsas also added that they try to do a weighted average, based on well usage. Commissioner J. Lyons asked if they should be managing this from a percentage basis or from an actual individual compound. Carney answered that the graphs provide both pieces of information. Pitsas explained that on the graph, the top line shows the percent removal, the scale on the right side of the graph is percentages (all PFAS removed), the yellow, blue, and red line on the bottom are concentrations, and you should be using the scale on the left side (PFAS concentration, ppt). Commissioner J. Lyons asked what this data indicates as far as roughly how long it will be before action is needed. L. Carney reminded the commissioners that this is on the first vessel and there is still a second vessel. She explained that recommended operation is that when breakthrough starts in the lead vessel, it is taken offline, replaced with new GAC, and the lag vessel is moved to the lead position and the refreshed vessel will take the place of the lag vessel. It has taken a year to hit the 50% mark and Underwood is estimating that it will be 6-12 months before needing to replace the GAC. PFBA is the only

breakthrough in the lead vessel at the 75% port. At this time, Chairman D. Provencher directed the attention to PFPrA.

### **3. Board of Commissioners to discuss PFPrA at MVD wells.**

Chairman D. Provencher informed the Underwood that Brandon Kernen, of NHDES, had done some testing that found a concentration of PFPrA. He stated that it was his understanding that Kernen had received a grant and was testing for roughly 70 compounds. PFPrA is showing up in just about all of MVD's wells. Chair Provencher stated that in Well 3 PFPrA is at 5.9, it's at 8.9 in Well 4, it's at 6.8 in Well 5. He also noted that a sample of the treated water at Wells 4 & 5 shows PFPrA at 7. Chair Provencher then noted the average of Wells 4 & 5 prior to treatment is 7.8, and once treated the water shows PFPrA at 7, indicating that this compound is ahead of PFBA and has already broken through both the lead and lag vessels at Wells 4/5. L. Carney agreed with this. Chairman D. Provencher noted that MVD cannot make a statement of Wells 4/5 being treated to non detect of all PFAS, and that the correct way to say this would be to note that Wells 4/5 are treated to non-detect of all PFAS that MVD routinely tests. He stated that it's important to be sure that when communicating to the public, MVD is not giving a false message. Chairman Provencher informed the commissioners that Kernen will be sampling some MVD wells again, if he hasn't already. Through a separate grant, he will be testing additional samples. Laurene Allen of Merrimack had a sample from her tap test at 42 ppt for PFPrA. Allen is on MVD water. It is believed that Kernen will be sampling Allen's tap again, along with Wells 4 & 5. It was noted that there was an expectation that the short chains would prove harder to remove with carbon.

Vice Chairman W. von Schoen mentioned that there had been previous discussions about adding another filtration technology, such as resin or zeolite, to take care of the short chains. He stated that he was concerned about the lag vessel becoming saturated with PFBA and becoming obsolete, if MVD goes by the short chains versus the regulated compounds. Both vessels would essentially be saturated with the short chain. He stated that a decision needs to be made as to how to handle the short chains and if they should be a part of the decision as to when to change out the media, or if MVD will just look at regulated MCLs. He asked if there has been any further progress with the pilot testing at Wells 4 & 5. Carney answered that they did go out and meet with Superintendent R. Miner and the operators to discuss the logistics, such as where the columns could go. A conceptual design of the pilot set up will be drawn up. No timeline is currently available, but L. Carney stated that she will follow up to see how quickly this can be returned to MVD.

Chair D. Provencher noted previous discussions regarding how the rest of the system is untreated and therefore contaminated with PFAS, it does not make sense to change out the media at Well 4 because there will still be PFAS in the distribution system. Purchasing water from PWW reduces the amount of PFAS in the system, but it is still present. Chairman D. Provencher asked if it made sense to change out the media. Pitsas answered that if you change out too quickly you lose the opportunity to develop historical data that you can use to make future decisions. Pitsas asked if the policy is to meet the regulated compounds or all PFAS, noting that it becomes a tougher and tougher decision to make, especially as technology develops. Vice Chairman W. von Schoen stated that the decision doesn't have to be made yet, as it was stated in a prior meeting that until there is clarity on the subject matter, MVD will be proactive and mindful. If there is a need to go to a higher frequency of replacing the media, which will mean a higher cost, it will be put out to the voters. Chairman D. Provencher asked if the board should be considering any warrant articles, and if there was enough information to present a warrant article. He also asked what this new information about PFPrA would mean compared to the PFBA breakthrough. Carney answered that there was quite a lag, with only one compound (PFBA) breaking through. Vice chairman W. von Schoen noted that MVD is aware PFBA is a concern, and that's where the attention should be

focused, as the information is available. He noted that PFBA is not regulated. He stated that eventually MVD will be able to dilute the PFBA concentration with the other wells that will be on in 2022. He expressed that he would vote to continue to collect data. There is a slight surplus at this time, as MVD was proactive with the rate increases, in preparation of overhead costs, which will likely allow MVD to make a decision to replace the media earlier than planned if needed. MVD could continue to collect data on PFPrA and prepare something towards the end of 2022, allowing the board to be well informed when addressing the voters in order to put a warrant article in place for 2023. Chairman D. Provencher stated that he was on board with that. Commissioner Lyons stated that it may be interesting to see if there was any information regarding the health effects of the short chains versus the long chains, but in general, he is in agreement with Vice Chairman von Schoen's statement. Chairman D. Provencher stated that ATSDR is continuously updating the reference doses for each compound, but he is not certain if PFBA or PFPrA is available yet. Vice Chairman W. von Schoen asked if this was information that could be obtained from NHDES. Chairman D. Provencher stated that he does not believe that NHDES develops the information independently, and he believes they use information from ATSDR. It was noted that it could be beneficial to reach out to NHDES to request they collect the information, and also to invite Brandon Kernen to an MVD meeting.

#### **4. Board of Commissioners to discuss chlorine complaints.**

At this time, Chairman D. Provencher provided Underwood with the table depicting distribution system chlorine residuals. It was clarified that the units on the table should indicate milligrams per liter. Superintendent R. Miner explained that once the PWW interconnect was opened on the October 20<sup>th</sup>, MVD started more frequent residual checks in the system. He noted that the chlorine residuals started climbing in November and December. Superintendent R. Miner explained that this agenda item came at the request of Vice Chair von Schoen after noting multiple complaints via Facebook. The complaints are directed to the MVD office. Chairman D. Provencher noted a mistake with the chart but stated that it did appear the chlorine residuals were climbing. He asked if there was a sample tap in the booster pump interconnect. Superintendent R. Miner answered that there is, and he can add it to the table. He stated that he believed at one point there was a reading of 1.0 mg/l at the interconnect. He noted that PWW has also received chlorine complaints. PWW is pumping 1.0 mg/l million gallons per day (MGD) into the system but would be dialing it down in an attempt to alleviate some of the complaints. MVD typically pumps 0.8 MGD of PWW water into the MVD system. PWW indicated that the complaints are more common in the wintertime. Chairman D. Provencher noted that there is a certain level of residual needed to maintain the system and kill bacteria, but there is a certain number you do not want to exceed. Pitsas noted that the October residual numbers were using MVD supplied water, and the November and December residual numbers were primarily PWW supplied water. Commissioner J. Lyons asked if looking at location would be beneficial, and most agreed. It was noted that if the trend continues there would likely be complaints throughout the entire distribution system. With PWW dialing back their chlorine level, it will likely have an impact on the residuals MVD is experiencing. Chairman D. Provencher stated that it may be beneficial to note whether each location on the table is in the high- or low-pressure zone.

#### **5. Board of Commissioners to discuss Planning Board meeting.**

Chairman D. Provencher explained that this agenda item was to discuss the Planning Board meeting that took place on December 7<sup>th</sup>, related to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Superintendent R. Miner stated that he thought the Planning Board meeting went well. He presented to the Planning Board and went through each project. There was feedback about some purchases that should not be within the CIP. MVD has always included them in as a placeholder so things would not be forgotten during the budget process, but Superintendent R. Miner stated that he would remove them if the board would prefer that. The Planning Board put their recommendations at the end. Chairman D. Provencher stated that it



appeared that the recommendations of the Planning Board had placed urgent priority on all that is related to new source development (new land purchase, well site development, etc). Chairman D. Provencher noted that he viewed a replay of the Planning Board meeting and stated that there was a question about some of the numbers not adding up. Superintendent R. Miner explained that when you total up the column the asset management target contributions were included in the totals. He subtracted them out, but he can add them back in if the board prefers. He noted that he had left some on the CIP to prevent the lines from being at \$0, and this is likely where the confusion stemmed. Vice Chair W. von Schoen suggested pulling them out of the main table and adding a secondary table. He also suggested thinning out the completed projects, as they weren't relevant to the Planning Board. Superintendent R. Miner has previously left them on for the annual report but stated that he could document that elsewhere. Commissioner P. McLaughlin clarified that according to the RSA, MVD does not have to inform the Planning Board of anything under \$100,000. Vice Chair W. von Schoen suggested breaking this into separate tables, which would allow all of the information to be together, but projects over \$100,000 would be on a separate table, available to the Planning Board, etc.

Superintendent R. Miner noted that there have been some questions regarding how MVD relates to the Planning Board as far as authority, and an explanation has been sent out to the board members via email.

**6. Board of Commissioners to review the minutes from the October 18, 2021 Regular Session, November 10, 2021 Emergency Meeting and the November 15, 2021 Regular Session.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board of Commissioners Regular Session . . . . .October 18, 2021

*No amendments were offered.*

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER W. VON SCHOEN TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 18, 2021 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING AS PRESENTED  
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER P. MCLAUGHLIN**

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

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

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Nay:

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**MOTION CARRIED**

**4-0-0**

Board of Commissioners Emergency Meeting . . . . . November 10, 2021

***TABLED***

Board of Commissioners Regular Session . . . . .November 15, 2021

*No amendments were offered.*

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER W. VON SCHOEN TO ACCEPT THE MEETING MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2021 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING AS PRESENTED MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER J. LYONS**

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

Yea: Donald Provencher, Wolf von Schoen, John Lyons,

3

Nay:

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**MOTION CARRIED**

**3-0-1**

*Commissioner P. McLaughlin abstained*

**7. Board of Commissioners to review Action Items from previous meetings and those to be added from this meeting.**

The Commissioners reviewed the list of Action Items, removing tasks that have been completed.

**8. Old Business**

Chairman D. Provencher informed the commissioners that WMUR News 9 reported that DHHS has announced that higher than expected kidney and renal cancers have been found in the town of Merrimack. He expressed his hope that this be further investigated and stated that PFAS remediation may be for good reason if health is potentially being affected. Commissioner P. McLaughlin questioned an earlier news report regarding an unfiltered bypass emissions stack at Saint-Gobain; however, no one was able to provide any information. Chairman D. Provencher noted that he is sure this is being investigated further, and that it is important information.

At this time, Chairman D. Provencher asked about the status of the PUC application. Superintendent R. Miner answered that the emergency rate was approved for \$0.67. He noted that they will vote on the special contract next, but he has yet to hear back regarding that. Chairman D. Provencher asked about the grant opportunities that were discussed at a prior meeting. Business Manager J. Lavoie answered that MVD is already looking into this, but legal counsel informed her that because the water that is being purchased is not causing MVD any financial stress or damage, there are no damages to be sought. Vice chairman W. von Schoen noted that he had previously objected to that statement. He noted that MVD has running costs that cannot be put on hold, such as debt services, operational services, labor, insurances, etc. Vice Chair W. von Schoen stated that MVD may produce water at a higher cost than the emergency rate, but MVD is not saving the same amount of money by purchasing the water. He stated that there is an existing infrastructure, existing contracts that need to be honored, staff that needs to be paid, and a distribution system that needs to be maintained, and in that process MVD incurs costs. A good deal of the costs still exists, despite shutting the pumps off. Purchasing water is still extra expenditure. Commissioner J. Lyons stated his agreement. Superintendent R. Miner explained that Underwood produced numbers explaining the cost of water production for MVD. He noted that two months' worth of

bills have now come in and he would be able to sit down with Finance Director M. Holton to determine the amount of cost savings. He explained that the savings would be in electricity and chemicals. Vice Chair von Schoen noted that an entire water system was still being operated to produce water from Wells 4 & 5, and the savings are only on electricity and chemicals for Wells 2, 3, 7 & 8. Chairman D. Provencher agreed that this should be looked at more closely. Chairman D. Provencher asked about the two bills from Pennichuck. Superintendent R. Miner explained that the first bill was at the full rate but has been adjusted to the emergency rate.

*At this time, 7:34 pm, Commissioner J. Lyons left the meeting*

Vice Chairman W. von Schoen asked if the commissioners should send a letter of appreciation to the PUC for expediting this decision. It was noted that the person who expedited the decision is no longer with the PUC. No commissioner expressed a strong inclination to send a letter.

At this time, conversation returned to the cost of purchasing water from PWW and Superintendent R. Miner informed the commissioners that the two bills have reflected a total of roughly \$30,000 from October 6, 2021, to November 29, 2021. This is on the \$0.67 emergency rate. Superintendent R. Miner noted that there were some fixed charges that had not previously been mentioned. Business Manager J. Lavoie explained that she had received an email back from legal counsel regarding this but has not had the opportunity to properly review it.

At this time, Chairman D. Provencher asked about the no/low salt signage and stated that prior to approving anything, he would like to see a picture of what the signs will look like and where they will be used.

## **9. New Business**

*None*

## **10. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent R. Miner informed the commissioners that Mike Metcalf, of Underwood Engineers, is retiring. He has been in the business for 42 years, and with Underwood for the last 17. It was noted how wonderful Mike is and has been.

Superintendent R. Miner let the commissioners know that John Lombardo, of Evoqua, would be there for training on January 12, 2022. He noted the carbon will be in on January 10<sup>th</sup> and will be in the filters.

## **11. Questions from the Public / Press**

*None*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER W. VON SCHOEN TO ADJOURN  
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER P. MCLAUGHLIN**

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

Yea: Donald Provencher, Wolfram von Schoen, Paul McLaughlin,

Nay: 3  
0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**3-0-0**

The December 20, 2021 meeting of the Board of Commissioners was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Submitted by Amanda McKenna, Recording Secretary