

**MERRIMACK VILLAGE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FEBRUARY 26, 2024  
PUBLIC HEARING  
MEETING MINUTES  
(approved March 18, 2024)**

A Public Hearing was conducted by the Merrimack Village District Board of Commissioners on Monday, February 26, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at 2 Greens Pond Road, Merrimack, NH.

Chairman, Donald Provencher presided:

Members of the Board present:      Kenneth Ayers, Vice Chairman  
   W. von Schoen, Personnel Liaison  
   John Lyons  
   Erin Clement

Members of the Board Absent:

Also in Attendance:                      Ron Miner, Superintendent  
   Jill Lavoie, Business Manager/Water Quality Support  
   Kristen Maher, Finance Director

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**PUBLIC HEARING**

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

**Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Proposed Operating Budget**

**Warrant Articles for the 2024 Annual Meeting scheduled for March 26, 2024**

Notice of the Public Hearing was advertised in the online edition of the Nashua Telegraph, the February 18, 2024 printed edition of the Nashua Telegraph, posted on the [Merrimack Village District website](#), at the Merrimack Village District Office, The Merrimack Town Hall, Merrimack Town Post Office, and the Merrimack Town Library.

**Merrimack Village District Proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and the Warrant Articles for the 2024 Annual Meeting**

*Chairman Provencher opened the floor for public comment.*

At this time, Ben Niles, of 11 Fernwood Drive, stated that, “it looks like account 60650 (Filtration PFAS) has basically doubled three years in a row.” Niles asked, “with the money we’re expending on it, do we have PFAS under control and reduced to the State Department of Environmental Service’s standards or are we still wrestling with elevated levels of PFAS and PFOA?” Chairman Provencher answered that the finished drinking water has PFAS that is essentially non-detectable, which is much better than the state regulations

require. He explained that the state regulates four PFAS compounds, of which, the only one that MVD's well water was in violation of was PFOA. Chairman Provencher stated that the limit for PFOA is 12ppt. Chairman Provencher continued to explain that now that the last of the three treatment plants has been placed online, there has been no PFOA breakthrough in the finished water. It was noted that the last treatment plant to go online was in March of 2023. Chairman Provencher stated that since the last treatment plant went online, almost all PFAS has been tested at non-detect within the distribution system. Ben Niles stated that he was glad to hear that and described the reports on the website to be pretty technical and expressed having a difficult time comprehending them. Niles shared that he had attended an open house at one of MVD's treatment centers and found it to be an impressive operation. Finance Director Kristen Maher added that the financial jump that Niles was referencing was due to the timing of treatment plants becoming operational.

At this time, Richard Barry, of 12 Kyle Road, stated that he was "delighted to see the employee recognition numbers were up there, which shows that MVD is doing something right." Barry questioned the cost of chemicals, stating that they have increased in cost each year. Director Maher explained that the increase in cost was because MVD increased the number of treatment plants from one to two, and then two to three. Superintendent R. Miner explained that the costs of chemicals have increased as well. It was noted that the prices are just now starting to work their way back down after the supply chain issues related to Covid-19.

Richard Barry also expressed concern about MVD getting "beat up with electricity." Director Maher explained that MVD does currently have a locked in rate with their service provider, which is outside of Eversource. She stated that it was significantly less than what Eversource is offering. It was noted that Eversource is still used for delivery. Maher explained that they have one more year of locked in rates, which will cover this fiscal year.

Richard Barry informed the commissioners that he also had a PFAS related question. He asked if MVD had a "harmless clause with the people who are taking the waste," and expressed concern for "if they were to get burned somewhere, they could say 'It's not mine, I got it from these guys.'" Superintendent R. Miner stated that he would look into this, as it should be in the contract. He further explained that the company actually takes MVD's media and regenerates it, to then return the old media to MVD as regenerated media. Chairman Provencher explained that it is his understanding that the regeneration process is a thermal process, in which the media is heated to such a high temperature that it burns the PFAS off of the media into inert compounds. Commissioner W. von Schoen stated that roughly a year or two ago this was addressed in another meeting when the commissioners had the same question. At that time, it was explained to the commissioners that the PFAS was being destroyed by a thermal process, but the full process was not shared with the commissioners.

*Chairman Provencher opened the floor for comments from the press.*

No comment was offered.

***The Public Hearing was declared closed at 7:20 pm.***

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER W. VON SCHOEN TO RECONVENE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC MEETING  
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER E. CLEMENT**

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

Yea: Donald Provencher, Wolf von Schoen, Kenneth Ayers, John Lyons, Erin Clement

Nay: 5  
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**MOTION CARRIED**  
**5-0-0**

*The Commissioners reopened the Public session at 7:20 p.m.*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by Amanda McKenna, Recording Secretary