

**MERRIMACK VILLAGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 23, 2026
PUBLIC HEARING
MEETING MINUTES
(approved March 16, 2026)**

A Public Hearing was conducted by the Board of Commissioners on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at 2 Greens Pond Road, Merrimack, NH.

Donald Provencher, Chairman, presided:

Members of the Commission present: Erin Clement, Vice Chairman
Dan Allen
Wolfram von Schoen

Members of the Commission Absent: Scott Sabens, Personnel Liaison

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

**PUBLIC HEARING
FY27 Proposed Operating Budget
Warrant Articles for the 2026 Annual Meeting**

Due to blizzard conditions and the inability for members of the Board and Administration to safely travel to the posted meeting location, Chair Provencher declared an emergency meeting to conduct the Public Hearing on the proposed FY27 Operating Budget and Warrant Articles remotely, in accordance with RSA 91-A:2 II.

Deadlines/timelines associated with the posting of notice of the Public Hearing and the conduction of the Annual Meeting do not permit noticing the Public Hearing to a different date.

Ron Miner, Superintendent, was present at the posted meeting location to accommodate any member(s) of the public who might find a way in.

Members of the Board and Administration participating via Zoom were asked to state, for the record, where they were, who, if anyone, was with them, and whether or not they were able to hear the proceedings.

Chair Provencher stated he was located at 6 Wasserman Heights, he was alone, and could hear the proceedings.

Commissioner von Schoen stated he was located at 4 Conservation Drive, was alone, and could hear the proceedings.

Commissioner Allen stated he was at 16 French Court, was alone, and could hear the proceedings.

Vice Chair Clement stated that she was located at 65 Patten Road, was alone, and could hear the proceedings.

Chair Provencher explained the purpose of the public hearing was to gather public input on the proposed FY27 operating budget and Warrant articles that will come before the voters at the Annual Meeting on March 31, 2026, in accordance with RSA 40:13 and 31:95-b.

Notice of the Public Hearing was advertised in the online version of the Nashua Telegraph and the 2-8-2026, 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, Merrimack Town Post Office, and Merrimack Town Library.

Chair Provencher declared the public hearing open for public input at 7:03 p.m.

ARTICLE 1

To choose two (2) Commissioners for a three (3) year term of office.

(Written ballot vote required)

The purpose of this article is to allow you to vote for your choice of candidate for the Commissioner positions. 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.

ARTICLE 2

To choose one (1) District Clerk for a three (3) year term of office.

(Written ballot vote required)

The purpose of this article is to allow you to vote for your choice of candidate for the District Clerk position. 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.

ARTICLE 3

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

(Written ballot vote required)

The purpose of this article is to allow you to vote for your choice of candidate for the Moderator position. 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.

ARTICLE 4

Shall the Merrimack Village District (MVD) vote to raise and appropriate a sum of three million three hundred thirty-five thousand dollars (\$3,335,000) for the primary purpose of designing and constructing Phase 1 of Beebe Lane PFAS Water Main Extension Project (the "Project"). Such sum to be raised by the issuance of bonds or notes not to exceed three million three hundred thirty-five thousand dollars

(\$3,335,000) in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (NH RSA 33) and to authorize the Board of Commissioners (BOC) to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes as shall be in the best interests of the MVD, and to determine the interest rate thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and further to authorize the District Commissioners to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state, or other aid, grants or other funds, which may be available for the Project, and use such funds to reduce the amount of bonds or notes issued or to pay debt service on the bonds or notes, and to participate in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (“DWSRF”) loan program, the DWSRF Emerging Contaminant loan program, and the Emerging Contaminant, Small and Disadvantaged Community (“EC-SDC”) grant program, and to allow the BOC to expend such monies as become available and to authorize the BOC to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative to said purpose; and further to raise and appropriate the required sum of money for the purpose of 2027/2028 interest on said bond or notes? **(3/5 written ballot vote required)**

The purpose of this article is to extend the Merrimack Village District (MVD) Water Main to residents whose private wells have been affected by the presence of Pre-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). Project funding has been acquired for phase 1 of the Beebe Lane PFAS Main Line Extension if this article should pass. Funding sources are DWSRF Loan of \$835,000 with 10% forgiveness, DWSRF Emerging Contaminant Loan \$1,000,000 with 100% forgiveness, and Emerging Contaminant, Small and Disadvantaged Community (EC-SDC) Grant of \$1,500,000 totaling \$3,335,000.

ARTICLE 5

Shall the Merrimack Village District (MVD) vote to raise and appropriate a sum of three million nine hundred thousand dollars (\$3,900,000) for the primary purpose of designing and constructing Greatstone Drive PFAS Water Main Extension Project. Such sum to be raised by the issuance of bonds or notes not to exceed three million nine hundred thousand dollars (\$3,900,000) under, and in compliance with, the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (NH RSA 33) and to authorize the Board of Commissioners (BOC) to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes as shall be in the best interests of the MVD; and to determine the interest rate thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and further to authorize the District Commissioners to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state, or other aid, grants or other funds, which may be available for the Project, and use such funds to reduce the amount of bonds or notes issued or to pay debt service on the bonds or notes, and to participate in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (“DWSRF”) loan program, the DWSRF Emerging Contaminant loan program, and the Emerging Contaminant, Small and Disadvantaged Community (“EC-SDC”) grant program, and to allow the BOC to expend such monies as become available and to authorize the BOC to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative to said purpose; and to raise and appropriate the required sum of money for the purpose of 2027/2028 interest on said bond or notes? **(3/5 written ballot vote required)**

The purpose of this article is to extend the Merrimack Village District (MVD) Water Main to residents whose private wells have been affected by the presence of Pre-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). Project funding has been acquired for Greatstone Drive PFAS Main Line Extension if this article should pass. The funding source would be a DWSRF Loan of in the amount of \$3,900,000 with 10% forgiveness.

ARTICLE 6

To see if the Merrimack Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six million seven hundred ninety-seven thousand seven hundred sixty-two dollars (\$6,797,762) for general municipal

operations for the 2026-2027 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 operations of the District for the year beginning July 1, 2026 ending June 30, 2027 for all departments; Administration, Distribution, Treatment, Debt Services and Insurance/Benefits.

ARTICLE 7

Shall the Merrimack Village District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty-one thousand three hundred twelve dollars (\$151,312) 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 System Development revenue fund; these are the system development charges collected during the 2024-2025 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. These funds can be used for water system expansion caused by an increase in demand for service, increase in consumption and the overall need for a supply increase necessary to meet the goals of the District.

ARTICLE 8

Shall the Merrimack Village District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000) 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 the 2024-2025 unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required.)

The purpose of this article is to use a portion of the unassigned funds to be set aside for future use in the District's Equipment and Facilities capital reserve fund. This allows the District to plan for future Capital needs as outlined in the District's Capital Improvement Plan. Additionally, should an emergency arise in future years, for which there was no appropriation, the Board of Commissioners would have these funds available for such purposes. This fund was established by the March 26, 1996 annual meeting

ARTICLE 9

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 "Purchase of water and/or the operations and maintenance of GAC Treatment facilities" Non-Capital Reserve fund for associated costs with purchase of and/or treatment of water. This sum to come from the 2024-2025 unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required.)

The purpose of this article is to use a portion of the unassigned funds to be set aside for future use in the District's Purchase of water and/or the operations and maintenance of GAC Treatment facilities non capital reserve fund. Should an emergency arise in future years, for which there was no appropriation, or should there be the need for an unforeseen additional water purchase or treatment cost, for example, the Board of Commissioners would have these funds available for such purposes. This fund was established by Warrant Article 6 at the March 2021 Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE 10

This article is to transact any other business and close the meeting.

No members of the public were present at the meeting location or online wishing to provide comment.

The public input period was closed at 7:07 p.m.

The February 23, 2026, public hearing was declared closed at 7:07 p.m.

Submitted by Dawn MacMillan, Recording Secretary