

**MERRIMACK VILLAGE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
ANNUAL MEETING  
MARCH 31, 2026  
MEETING MINUTES  
(approved April 20, 2026)**

The Annual Meeting of the Merrimack Village District was conducted on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Merrimack High School.

Moderator Marc Nozell presided:

Members of the Commission present: Donald Provencher, Chairman  
Erin Clement, Vice-Chairman  
Scott Sabens, Personnel Liaison  
Dan Allen  
Wolfram von Schoen

Members of the Commission Absent:

Also in Attendance: Jill Lavoie, District Clerk  
Ron Miner, Superintendent, MVD  
Kristen Maher, HR/Finance Director, MVD  
Keriann Roman, Esq., Drummond Woodsum

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Moderator Nozell explained the process that would be followed.

Don Provencher, Chairman, Merrimack Village District (MVD) Board of Commissioners, introduced members of the Commission, Administration, and legal counsel.

Ballot boxes were declared open at 7:01 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(s) 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.

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### **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 area 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)

**Recommended by the Board of Commissioners (5-0-0)**

Reviewed by the Department of Revenue Administration

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ALLEN TO ACCEPT WARRANT ARTICLE 4  
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER VON SCHOEN**

### **ON THE QUESTION**

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% anticipated forgiveness, DWSRF Emerging Contaminant Loan \$1,000,000 with 100% anticipated forgiveness, and Emerging Contaminant, Small and Disadvantaged Community (EC-SDC) Grant of \$1,500,000 totaling \$3,335,000.

Chris Christensen, 27 Greatstone Drive

Addressing both Beebe Lane and Greatstone Drive, questioned how many of the homes already have installed filtration systems that were reimbursed by State programs. He was reimbursed (recollection is

\$5,000) for a filtration system, and does not need MVD water at that particular location. He questioned the number of customers that would be served by this, and the number already having filtration systems.

Jill Lavoie, Business Manager, MVD

A hang tag survey was delivered to the entire area of Greatstone Drive and Beebe Lane to gauge interest. One of the questions posed was whether the rebate for a filtration system had already been applied for. Individuals who had received the rebate are still able to apply for the rebate to hook up to the system. That rebate would simply be minus the amount received for the filtration system.

With regard to the number, she stated there to have been a handful; not many. Noted was an approximate 30% response rate achieved by the survey.

Chris Christensen, 27 Greatstone Drive

Remarked the answer is you don't have good numbers. He provided the information to a homeowner on Greatstone Drive who said it did not apply to him, and threw it away. He is uncertain of the number of homeowners who may have done the same. He believes the MVD is working with unreliable numbers, and stated he would be voting against the article.

Commissioner von Schoen commented the MVD did what it could; reached out to homeowners in both project areas. If homeowners choose not to respond to surveys, that is not something the Commission can control.

He ran for office 8 years ago with a promise to bring clean water to the Town. That is as simple as it is. He is not happy about the expenditure. Thankfully, there is quite a bit of funding available from outside sources. The Commission discussed this and shared the sentiment that if there is just one (1) person on that road that wants clean water, doesn't have it right now, and can obtain filtered water from the MVD, they are supportive. Morally, he personally had no choice but to vote for it.

Alexander Latzko, 37 Greatstone Drive

Is wildly in favor of this.

He spoke of having not found a map that identifies the area(s) impacted, and was informed there was a map located in packets provided for each project at the check-in table for his review.

*Voting was declared open at 7:12 p.m. and would remain open for one hour.*

## 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 area 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)

**Recommended by the Board of Commissioners (5-0-0)**  
Reviewed by the Department of Revenue Administration

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SABENS TO ACCEPT WARRANT ARTICLE 5  
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CLEMENT**

ON THE QUESTION

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 in the amount of \$3,900,000 with 10% anticipated forgiveness.

Paul Hasenfuss, 5 Sarah Drive

Questioned what the impact would be to ratepayers if both articles were to pass.

Kristen Maher, HR/Finance Director, MVD

Considering the amount of financial aid that we would receive from the stated sources, there would be no impact to the remaining ratepayers.

Mr. Hasenfuss remarked what he heard was that for Greatstone there is a \$3.9 million loan with 10% forgiveness, which means there is some left over that interest will have to be paid on, etc. That doesn't filter down to anyone?

Director Maher responded, at this time, we do not require a rate increase to cover this.

Asked if there would be a future rate increase as a result, Director Maher stated there will be other additional expenses in the future, which makes it difficult to indicate whether there will be rate increases down the line.

Chair Provencher spoke of funds due to the MVD from the 3M Multi-District Litigation (MDL) settlement on the order of about \$4.5 million. Those funds will be applied to existing debt (loans). As a result, the MVD can refinance current debt at a lower interest rate. Essentially that \$4.5 million does get applied to the projects and that is what keeps rates from increasing.

Understanding that would be questioned, the information was included in the handouts provided.

Chris Christensen, 27 Greatstone Drive

Asked why the MVD would not just pay off the existing loans and not start new projects requiring new loans, and suggested that could result in reducing the rate schedule.

Vice Chair Clement responded based on NHDES rules, the \$4.5 million has to go to the current loans we have for our PFAS treatment system. That money will go against that loan and then we will have to take out new loans for these projects. It is because these new loans would come with a lot of loan forgiveness that the Commission would like to move forward with these projects.

Having requested of NHDES that the settlement funds be used towards these new projects, the Commission was informed that cannot be done; it has to go against current PFAS treatment systems.

Chair Provencher added that the State wants to get their SRF money back so they can use it for other projects, which is why it is a priority for them.

Nancy Murphy, 20 Brenda Lane

Dealing with the PFAS situation has been a long ordeal. Part of the challenge has been what we have been allowed to do regarding NHDES and NHDES rules particularly in terms of the settlement funds, which in her mind should have gone directly to the MVD as opposed to NHDES to then disburse.

Given what we know of PFAS and the impact on public health, the more people we can get on our MVD water the better off we will be. Unfortunately, we find ourselves again absorbing the expense for something that we didn't cause. She knows it is a hard decision to make; asking people to vote for something that could have a financial impact, while at the same time trying to balance the protection of the environment and public health. She thanked the Commission for its work, understands why the recommendations have been made, and supports the articles.

Kenneth Kravetz, 3 Greatstone Drive

When this first happened, we received a letter from the State. We immediately had a point-of-use system installed (before the ability to apply for any rebates). The cost was a few thousand dollars to install for their kitchen sink, which is where they drink most of their water.

A little while later they learned of the rebate. They then had a PFAS system installed for the entire house. That cost several thousand dollars as well. They received a rebate for all of that expense. Every 2-3 years they are supposed to do an expensive service on each of the two systems they have (\$1,200<sup>±</sup> for each).

Stated his support of the Article.

Chair Provencher remarked the 3M Multi-District Litigation case is national and all public water systems that qualify are part of that settlement agreement. This has nothing to do with our ongoing litigation

against St. Gobain and TCI that we allege affected some of our wells. That is still pending. We are hopeful we will be successful in that resulting in additional settlement funds in the future. We are taking advantage of all settlements that are available; being proactive in taking the polluter(s) to court for restitution for the cost of building the treatment plants, etc.

Chair Provencher added that an excellent point was raised by the last commenter concerning in-home filter systems. If you do not test those periodically, you will not know when PFAS breaks through and the filter needs to be changed out. There are costs associated with maintaining the in-home filters that you should be bearing if not going to connect to MVD water. Otherwise, once the PFAS breaks through it is as if the filter is essentially not there. You have to weigh that cost against the cost of possible future MVD water bills.

Kerri Hayes, 16 Four Seasons Lane

Speaking to both Article 4 and 5; wished to ask a clarifying question. She spoke of being in a similar situation where this is needed now. They are looking at their options for having water filtered and taking advantage of the rebate of up to \$5,000, and also having the option to put a stub into the home if wanting to connect further down the road. They could also connect in the future and leave the well active for outdoors.

She stated her belief that they can take advantage of the filtration rebate of up to \$5,000, and then the balance of that up to \$10,000 they could put towards getting the stub connection to the home to potentially connect in the future. She asked if her understanding is accurate.

Chair Provencher stated that to be his understanding. He spoke of being on the HB737 Commission along with Michael Wimsatt, Waste Management Division Director, NHDES. They meet virtually once a month. Discussed was that some individuals were actually opting to have the service line run up to the foundation of their home and not bringing it into the home for the sake of future property values should there be a desire to sell to potential owners who may not be pleased with a well. There would then be a line that would have already been paid for at the foundation and would simply need to be brought into the home. That may or may not cost more or less than the \$10,000. Depends on many factors, distance to property, etc.

Ms. Hayes responded as long as you don't exceed the \$10,000 for both of the options you should be okay.

Chair Provencher stated that to be his understanding.

Ms. Hayes stated she has spoken with Ms. Lavoie, Business Manager, and also received an email from the rebate program. The same scenario was explained to her. She wished to make others aware of the ability to maximize the rebate to gain protection now and leave options open for the future.

Paul Micali, Town Manager

Stated the Town received a million-dollar grant from the State for assisting residents in obtaining filtration systems in their homes (up to \$6,500). However, the limits are a little bit higher than what the State is offering; have to be over 30 parts per trillion (PPT). He asked if that qualifies as part of the \$10,000 limit discussed. He believed it to be two separate funding sources.

He understood the answer was not readily available, but asked that it be sought. Only 2-3 individuals in the Greatstone Drive area have taken advantage of the opportunity afforded through the grant provided the Town. There are a few others considering this.

Asked if that is solely for filtration or would include excavation, Town Manager Micali responded right now we are just doing filtration. There are a few homes that felt it best to go with the States \$10,000 rebate as most of the hookups are above the \$6,500 limit. The \$10,000 would cover the hookup.

Commissioner von Schoen commented he cringes when hearing that neighbors are spending a lot of money for temporary filtration systems. Some of those filtration systems, such as the reverse osmosis system, are still not a bad idea to have even with MVD water. Not because MVD water isn't safe but for chlorine, especially if located near a well and treatment plant because of higher Chlorine levels (should not be an issue at Greatstone). The whole house filtration system is always a good idea against sediments in the line.

What suggested homeowners might want to seek council with some of the PFAS experts we have in Town; reach out to any members of the Commission or MVD staff to gain their opinion of whether it makes sense to get a whole house filter for the meantime if planning a hookup coming in a year or two.

It is not ever wasted money but it is temporary use money. It might be a good idea to talk to someone about the difference between ingestion and exposure to the skin, etc.

*Voting was declared open at 7:30 p.m., and would remain open for one hour.*

*A brief recess was conducted to allow the opportunity for individuals to vote.*

## **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)

**Recommended by the Board of Commissioners (5-0-0)**

Reviewed by the Department of Revenue Administration

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VON SCHOEN TO ACCEPT WARRANT ARTICLE 6  
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SABENS**

## **ON THE QUESTION**

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.

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Hand Vote*

*The article was declared passed by Moderator Nozell.*

### **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)

**Recommended by the Board of Commissioners (5-0-0)**  
Reviewed by the Department of Revenue Administration

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ALLEN TO ACCEPT WARRANT ARTICLE 7**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CLEMENT**

### **ON THE QUESTION**

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.

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Hand Vote*

*The article was declared passed by Moderator Nozell.*

### **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)

**Recommended by the Board of Commissioners (5-0-0)**  
Reviewed by the Department of Revenue Administration

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CLEMENT TO ACCEPT WARRANT ARTICLE 8**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PROVENCHER**

ON THE QUESTION

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.

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Hand Vote*

*The article was declared passed by Moderator Nozell.*

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)

**Recommended by the Board of Commissioners (5-0-0)**

Reviewed by the Department of Revenue Administration

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SABENS TO ACCEPT WARRANT ARTICLE 9**

**MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER VON SCHOEN**

ON THE QUESTION

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.

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Hand Vote*

*The article was declared passed by Moderator Nozell.*

ARTICLE 10

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

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PROVENCHER TO ACCEPT WARRANT ARTICLE 10**

**MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALLEN**

ON THE QUESTION

Moderator Nozell stated voting would remain open until 8:30 p.m.

ELECTION RESULTS

**Article 1:** To choose two (2) Commissioners for a three (3) year term of office.

Erin Clement - 32 votes  
Scott Sabens - 32 votes

**Article 2:** To choose one (1) District Clerk for a three (3) year term of office.

Jill Lavoie - 33 votes

**Article 3:** To choose one (1) Moderator for a two (2) year term of office.

Marc Nozell - 32 votes

**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 area 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?

**MOTION CARRIED**

**33-3 (ballot count)**

*The article was declared passed by Moderator Nozell.*

**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 area 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?

**MOTION CARRIED**

**32-4 (ballot count)**

*The article was declared passed by Moderator Nozell.*

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SABENS TO ADJOURN**

**MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALLEN**

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Hand Vote*

*Moderator Nozell declared the Annual Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.*

Date: April 21, 2026

Signed:   
Jill Lavoie, District Clerk