

**MERRIMACK VILLAGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 18, 2026
MEETING MINUTES
(approved June 15, 2026)**

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was conducted on Monday, May 18, 2026, at 5:02 p.m. at 2 Greens Pond Road, Merrimack, NH.

Donald Provencher, Chairman, presided:

Members of the Commission present: Erin Clement, Vice Chair
 Dan Allen, Financial Liaison
 Wolfram von Schoen

Members of the Commission Absent: Scott Sabens, Personnel Liaison

Also in Attendance: Ron Miner, Superintendent
 Kristen Maher, HR/Finance Director

FINANCE/HUMAN RESOURCES REVIEW

1. Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures

As of April 30, 2026, and ten (10) months into the fiscal year, shown is revenue in the amount of \$6,004,034 (91.82% of budgeted amount) and expenses of \$4,384,283 (67.05%). Net Ordinary Income is \$1,619,752.

2. Revenue

34223 - service charge (hydrant hookup); temporary hydrant hookup has seen a significant increase mostly due to use of the Merrimack Outlets parking area for events.

34225 - New mainline extension fee; new construction and mainline projects

Expenses

49001 - Vehicles/Equipment; purchased in May (budgeted under Capital)

67005 - Inspections; added new with Water Treatment Plants (contract done after the budget)

68302 - Legal - PFAS; lawsuits

72300 - Repair & Maintenance Vehicles; new vendor and fixed up older trucks

Asked about Line Item 63000 - purchase of water, Director Maher commented that with many invoices it is close to the budget, everything else is below the line. By June, she will determine whether or not it is added to the budget.

Asked about Line Item 67550 - Office Supplies, she spoke of a few one-time expenses, e.g., purchase of cabinets.

A request was made that headers be included on all pages of the report.

B. Capital Reserve Balance

The Unassigned Fund Balance is \$23,414,061.68. Total percentage considered fund balance is 30.55%.

Trust Activities

The checks were cut for items approved through the passage of Articles 6, 7, and 8 at the March 31, 2026, Annual meeting. Those appear in the bank balance report as funds received.

Next month, a request will be made for the fee for the second truck that was purchased; one was from the budget and one from the Equipment & Facilities Trust.

Director Maher questioned whether there was the desire to engage in a further discussion around acceptance of the grant.

Commissioner von Schoen suggested a discussion occur at a later date. He noted he and Commissioner Sabens had requested to be involved in the process, and asked that be respected going forward. He spoke of having seen the opinion paper, and of being pleased with what was done, however, it is a portion of what we need to do. He suggested a second discussion, not related to the grant, to look at things we are not covering yet. He suggested it be placed on a future agenda as a non-public meeting.

NON-PUBLIC

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CLEMENT THAT THE BOARD, BY ROLL CALL, GO INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION PURSUANT TO RSA 91-A:3 II (e) CONSIDERATION OR NEGOTIATION OF PENDING CLAIMS OR LITIGATION WHICH HAS BEEN THREATENED IN WRITING OR FILED BY OR AGAINST THE PUBLIC BODY
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALLEN**

A Viva Voce Roll Call Vote was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Erin Clement, Wolfram von Schoen, Dan Allen, Don Provencher

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Nay:

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MOTION CARRIED

The Board recessed at 5:19 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 6:09 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

1. Board of Commissioners (BOC) to discuss request of Matthew Knott, 77A Wire Road for an exception to the tiered rate water usage for his farm.

Mr. Knott visited the office with a request to petition the Board for an exception to the Tier II rate.

The Board was provided with the request and supporting documentation outlining the differential (\$85.56) of the Tier I and Tier II costs, based usage during the period of 11/11/23 through 5/11/25.

The communication received from Mr. Knott requested an exemption to the Tier II rates, moving forward, based upon water usage for livestock requiring over 80 gallons/day during the warmer months and a large garden that has significant water demand.

Commissioner Allen cited concern over setting precedent; specifically for a garden.

Chair Provencher remarked he would have questioned whether the usage includes lawn irrigation, and would like to know if the farm is a State recognized agricultural resource.

Vice Chair Clement noted the Town does not have a standalone Agricultural zoning district.

Commissioner von Schoen stated the Commission does not do generalized exemptions. The only exception has been one-time situations such as seeding of a lawn. If anything, the request would be that of a rate change. This would be the first such request.

Chair Provencher commented there are some protections for gardens and animals when it comes to irrigation restriction, but not for tier classification.

Superintendent Miner added were this to be considered for an exemption, there would be the desire to conduct an inspection to determine if irrigation of lawn is involved. If that were the case, his recommendation would be not to approve the request.

Commissioner von Schoen commented that the water restriction defines flower and vegetable gardens are exempt from the restriction, but not from the tiered rate. He personally would not vote for an exemption.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ALLEN TO GRANT AN EXCEPTION TO THE TIERED
RATE WATER USAGE FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 77A WIRE ROAD
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER VON SCHOEN
MOTION FAILED**

0-4-0

Members Clement, Allen, von Schoen, and Provencher voted in opposition

2. Superintendent's Report

Water Quality

Maintenance:

- Treatment Facilities
 - Barry Miller's crew has finished the cleaning and surging of Wells 7&8. The wells were videoed before and after the cleaning. The only missing video is the post cleaning for Well 8; would not transfer from the memory card.
 - The GAC media for both 2&9 and 4&5 Treatment Plants have been scheduled, 2&9; June 3rd and 4&5 to follow; June 16th.

Leak Repair Mainline/Entrance:

Administrative:

- PFAS Watermain Extensions
 - Farmer & Mason and Palmeri – final paving and punch list items are about complete.

Superintendent Miner stated there remains some paving to be done on Palmeri; one of the homeowners questioned why it did not look as nice in front of their property. Upon review, it was noted that the edge of the asphalt was breaking off. It looked good prior to winter, but not after. That will be addressed.

Commissioner von Schoen commented on a Facebook post about the paving crew leaving trash behind on Naticook. Superintendent Miner stated the MVD did not do any paving work there.

- Wilson Hill and Mullikin – NHDES did not approve the overlay for Wilson Hill. The contractor is getting the final paving into the schedule for completion.

Asked, Superintendent Miner stated they will go back to the original plan of mill and fill for the half-lane.

- Final applications for Greatstone and Beebe were submitted 5/6/26.
 - 3M Settlement – settlement itself was \$5,646,524 received 5/15/26. Will be wired to NHDES for June loan payment.
 - New amortization schedule to be generated once received.
- Pilot Study data - the EPA has not sent it over to Underwood Engineers, Inc. (UEI), which is why no information was included in the Board's packet.
- MyMVD users total 5,556; Ebill total is 1,925 users, Auto Pay 2,775, ACH 1,766, and Credit Card 1,009.

Director Maher noted, once moving to the new utility billing, there will be an updated portal requiring users to sign up once again. Commissioner von Schoen asked if there is a mechanism on the old system to notify users of the requirement to sign up for the new system.

- Business Manager Lavoie and Superintendent Miner met with Public Works Director, Dawn Tuomala, and Deputy Director, Leo Laviolette, along with Dan Tinkam to go over some concerns they had with the Watershed-Based Management Plan. The meeting went well and a lot of the concerns had already been addressed. Somehow, we all had the old report. Director

Tuomala mentioned that they have ordered signs for Continental Boulevard to match what the DOT has put up.

- The MVD has been selected by NHDES program/bureau to receive the 2026 Source Water Protection Award for outstanding work to address salt contamination affecting our water system. Pierce Rigrod, Supervisor, will present on Wednesday, June 3rd at this year's Source Water Protection Conference.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Provencher stated the purpose of the Public Hearing was to accept public input relative to the acceptance of grant funds from the Overwatch Foundation in the amount of Twenty-one thousand one hundred ninety-three dollars and thirty-eight cents (\$21,193.38) for upgrades to the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system as well as three (3) SCADA PCs, three (3) monitors, and three (3) power supplies.

Chair Provencher opened the floor for public input at 6:27 p.m.

No public input was offered.

The public input period was declared closed at 6:27 p.m.

3. Board of Commissioners to vote relative to the acceptance of grant funds from the Overwatch Foundation.

The Overwatch Foundation is a not-for-profit foundation that delivers grant-funded services in cybersecurity, systems modernization, network and physical defense, training, and workforce development to state, local, and federal agencies along with New Hampshire associations and government organizations.

Commissioner von Schoen noted they hold audits and workshops and provide advice as to mitigating and improving efforts to secure our infrastructure. In this case, specifically in regard to cybersecurity/operational technology security, meaning tank level monitoring system, etc.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CLEMENT TO APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED NINETY-THREE DOLLARS AND THIRTY-EIGHT CENTS (\$21,193.38) FOR UPGRADES TO THE SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND DATA ACQUISITION (SCADA) SYSTEM AS WELL AS THREE (3) SCADA PCS, THREE (3) MONITORS, AND THREE (3) POWER SUPPLIES FROM THE OVERWATCH FOUNDATION

MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALLEN

MOTION CARRIED

4-0-0

4. Board of Commissioners to discuss Commissioner von Schoen's proposal to participate in the German-American PFAS Collaboration Project.

Commissioner von Schoen spoke of having learned of a last-minute deadline for a grant opportunity through Mrs. Ina Wiest, Senior Advisor for Science and Economic Affairs and Attache to Boston German Consul General. Mrs. Wiest is responsible for connecting German and American businesses, organizations, and institutions to foster collaboration in science, innovation, and economic development across New England.

The grant application was for a climate and environmental diplomacy project. The intent is for German and American organizations to work together in terms of climate and environmental challenges. He was asked if he had any ideas. Understanding PFAS is as much of an issue in Europe as it is anywhere in the world, and knowing specifically of a few towns in Germany that are really struggling with it, that was his approach. He is also aware that a few towns have recently implemented filtration systems. MVD has put a good deal of money into the test columns where we map different commercially available and even some experimental filtration media and knows how they perform on our contaminants, and the associated cost (pilot testing).

These communities in Germany have their own experiences with certain compounds and filtration media. We are at the forefront, and have been told that we are pretty far out with what we are doing here. Usually, Germany is pretty high-tech and regulated. The Water Technology Centre (TZW) (non-profit) specializes in research, development, testing and consulting in the water sector. TZW absorbs the knowledge that the different organizations develop in terms of PFAS and other challenges for water supplies.

The grant was awarded (15,000 Euros). We basically have until November of this year to expend the funds. The German Consulate's staff in Boston acts as grant administrator. Disbursement of grant funds requires a request from the project team and is intended to cover expenses such as travel and other tangible items needed to achieve the project outcome. It is not geared toward labor or services. There is the potential that, as a non-profit, some leeway may exist to cover some of the costs of subcontractors such as Underwood.

He believes this to be prestigious enough that we could approach NHDES and inquire as to whether there is funding available to support this. It may also be a good idea to talk with the New Hampshire Business & Economic Affairs. They are also very interested in getting international and New Hampshire businesses to cooperate with each other. It could be that Underwood would be interested in contributing something as this is prestigious and it can be made public.

Commissioner von Schoen stated this project idea is basically a framework. We can make of this what we want. If the Board, staff or Underwood have ideas, nothing is defined by what was submitted with the approved grant application.

The idea is to get the German organizations and MVD, and probably others such as Underwood and NHDES on a Zoom call and start discussing these things, e.g. how both groups have been dealing with this, what has been learned in terms of what does and does not work, these are the contaminants we have been dealing with, etc., and come up with a way to put this into documentation that is valuable. Obviously, this is public information and not protected.

The questions for the Board is do we support this, see value in it? Are we willing to put some effort into this? He commented on being able to see a long-term relationship developing, but also

significant cost savings as we would gain access to existing knowledge without having to pay others or our own staff to develop that knowledge. It could also be possible that some funding would need to come from us were there to be, for example, work done by outside parties that the grant would not be able to pay for, which he does not expect would be much.

Commissioner von Shoen noted he is in the process of establishing contact with three communities in the Southwestern part of Germany that are in the chemical industry sector along the Rhine river (usually the most contaminated in Germany) to see if there is interest on their end. Some are municipal organizations like ours and some private companies.

Noted were links provided. One of the links is to the website for Rastatt, which appears to be similar to MVD, just larger. They have filtration plants, production wells, etc. The TZW water institute is a fairly sizable organization that covers all kinds of water challenges, PFAS being one.

Asked if they are dealing with any of the same pollutants we are, Commissioner von Schoen stated not so much because they have their own, e.g., BASF. He is not certain, however, that would be an interesting question to pose.

Chair Provencher commented the project would simply be a technical sharing of information on how both parties are addressing treatment, e.g., things that we may have found that work well or did not work. The idea is trying to save each other from going down a road that may not be fruitful. He questioned what next steps would be.

Director Maher asked if it is known if they are working with any other countries that we would be able to leverage as well. Commissioner von Schoen commented usually that kind of stuff is publicly available. Whether they have active projects like this occurring, he would have to inquire. He commented on the grants usually being open to any of the German speaking countries in terms of contributors go.

Being sought is Board approval to continue down this path. Although no expenditure is being requested, it may be that staff hours are needed. He does not believe it would be to the point of needing to be tracked, e.g., perhaps staff reaching out to third parties to inquire about interest in participation/support. We're talking about a couple of days of work for all parties involved; few meetings, composing specifications for what we want to achieve here, and then feeding the data into some kind of final report.

The funding is heavily encouraging international business. The idea is to encourage personal relationships between the groups. We should absolutely invite those folks over and they should invite us over there as well. If we are very careful about expenses, it could certainly mean that a Superintendent, Foreman or other could go over. The idea is to get these international teams connected long-term. There are additional grant fund opportunities available.

There is a good deal of knowledge he believes to be gained through this. He wished for the Board's support for him to continue setting up the different players to coordinate conversations. From there perhaps we outline what we specifically wish to accomplish. He would also request the Board's agreement with having staff reach out to third parties to see if buy-in can be achieved.

Chair Provencher suggested a quick call with Commissioner von Schoen might help given his knowledge. He does support moving forward.

Commissioner Allen and Vice Chair Clement spoke in favor of the project.

Commissioner von Schoen clarified there are no monetary gains involved. This is simply something he is willing to assist with.

Chair Provencher commented should there be any aspect involving MVD expenditure such items would be considered at a different time.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VON SCHOEN TO APPROVE CONTINUING LINING UP THE GRANT PROJECT WITH THIRD PARTIES BOTH IN THE UNITED STATES AND GERMANY AND FURTHER TO PURSUE DEVELOPING THE GOAL FOR THAT PROJECT

MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CLEMENT

MOTION CARRIED

4-0-0

5. Board of Commissioners to review the minutes from the April 20, 2026, Organizational and non-public meetings.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CLEMENT TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AND NON-PUBLIC SESSION CONDUCTED ON APRIL 20, 2026, AS PRESENTED

MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALLEN

MOTION CARRIED

4-0-0

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

Asked about the salt mitigation committee meetings, Superintendent Miner replied a meeting has not yet been scheduled; however, a report just came out.

Chair Provencher stated he read most of the report; model for salt loading into the aquifer. The report was based on salt usage numbers provided to them from NHDOT and the Town. Numbers had to be estimated for private parking lots and roadways, driveways, etc.

Based on the inputs into the model and looking at what we are actually measuring in the groundwater, it seems the inputs are less than what is being seen in groundwater. There is a question of whether it is the time it takes the salt to get to the well points where it is monitored or just the numbers that are being reported being a little light.

Chair Provencher stated uncertainty with how to address that. The report was well done and very comprehensive.

7. Old Business

Commissioner von Schoen stated the Boston German Consul General, Dr. Sonja Kreibich, would like to visit the MVD and see the facility firsthand. It is likely she will be accompanied by Mrs. Ina Wiest, grant administrator. They are always welcoming other officials. If this was to be some kind of event, e.g., photo op everybody would like to be as neutral as possible. He spoke of the opportunity to invite representatives of NHDES, Governor, etc. It should be balanced. They were offering June 17th or 18th.

There might be a second event later on in the project, e.g., some kind of presentation. Dr. Kreibich's term ends in July. The later event would be with her successor. It is a nice P.R. event.

Superintendent Miner will look into the feasibility of the dates and reach out to Commissioner von Schoen.

Chair Provencher spoke of the mineral graphs that GZA provided. They added graphs of treated minerals and iron and manganese. It looked to him as though wells 4&5 and 2&9, had spikes of iron and manganese in the raw water but few were present in the treated water. They were gone. That means that not only is our carbon helping to remove the PFAS, but it is also actually addressing some of these spikes, which is actually a second benefit.

If we were running these filters for a long time, that might impede the flow, but since we are changing them out at 6 months it doesn't really affect anything. Superintendent Miner stated they watch the filter pressures regardless, and if having to backwash they would.

It looks like, in some instances, in sodium and chloride for MVD 9 (since 2023 when the well was put in service) the sodium and chlorides are slightly in a down trend. When blending in wells 2&9 together what is coming through the treatment plant as far as chloride is in a down trend and sodium a very slight up trend. This is good information. It would be nice to continue to see that.

It is an early indication that maybe the salt mitigation efforts might be working, at least holding steady to some extent. That is good news.

Commissioner von Schoen added particularly because in the past the trends were going up, even if they are leveling out now that is good news.

Chair Provencher requested Underwood be asked that the dates in the bottom of the PFAS graphs be made more easily readable. He requested they be asked to replot the graphs. He is unclear what the frequency of the dates are in the graphs.

8. New Business

Commissioner von Schoen commented on not having heard much about the Town salt use ordinance. Superintendent Miner stated they were waiting on answers to be provided by counsel. There is the need for him to follow up. He will forward a copy of the draft ordinance to the Commission.

9. Questions from the Public/Press

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CLEMENT TO ADJOURN
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALLEN
MOTION CARRIED
4-0-0**

The May 18, 2026, meeting of the Board of Commissioners was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Submitted by: Dawn MacMillan, Recording Secretary