

**MERRIMACK VILLAGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 16, 2024
MEETING MINUTES
(approved January 27, 2025)**

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was conducted on Monday, December 16, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. at 2 Greens Pond Road, Merrimack, NH.

Donald Provencher, Chairman, presided:

Members of the Commission present: Kenneth Ayers, Vice Chairman
Erin Clement
Scott Sabens
Wolfram von Schoen, Personnel Liaison

Members of the Commission Absent:

Also in Attendance: Ron Miner, Superintendent
Jill Lavoie, Business Manager
Kristen Maher, HR/Finance Director
Shawn O’Keefe, President/CEO, Granite State De-Icing Supply

FINANCE/HUMAN RESOURCES REVIEW

A. Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures

Five months into the fiscal year, shown is revenue in the amount of \$3,584,079 (57.06% of budgeted amount) and expense of \$2,009,934 (32.0%). Net Ordinary Income is \$1,574,145.

Revenue

40408 New Mains – Saint-Gobain’s new services online – first payment received from Saint-Gobain

Expenses

70040 New Entrance/Meters - New construction around town
70675.6 WTP Janitorial - Chemical Disposal needed

B. Capital Reserve Balance

At the time of this report, the November statement had not yet been received. Therefore, interest and fees for the month of November are not included. Under Equipment & Facilities, noted is receipt of the funds for the dump truck (\$121,320.00). For the remainder of this fiscal year, there are a number of items that continue to be identified as TBD.

At this point in time, the anticipated 2025 year-end totals are: Land Acquisition \$1,576,928.55, Equipment & Facilities \$2,456,693.53, System Development \$1,263,065.66, Extraordinary Legal \$111,572.79, and Water Purchase & Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP) Operations and Maintenance (O&M) \$416,891.03.

Estimates for Warrant Articles for FY 26 are listed; \$800,000 and \$200,000.

Asked if the grants awarded for the main line extensions are reflected in the report, Director Maher stated the item can be removed.

The Unassigned Fund Balance is \$22,193,916.00. The Convertible Cash amount was identified as \$4,052,142 (16.9% of overall budget).

Director Maher noted December 31st is the deadline for the operating manuals for 2, 9, 7, & 8. The NH DES receives those. Hopefully, in the next month we will receive that payment and that account can be closed out.

REGULAR SESSION

1. Board of Commissioners to review the draft Conflict of Interest Policy as required for recipients of federal APRA funds.

Policy #24-02-B – Conflict of Interest

- 1st Reading: October 21, 2024
- 2nd Reading: November 18, 2024 (amended)

Given its third reading;

Noted was an amendment made to replace the Appendix with references to State law.

Commissioner Sabens asked for acknowledgement that, during the review of this policy, there was awareness that there is no violation of this policy today. Director Maher stated that to be the case.

Commissioner von Schoen stated such a Conflict of Interest policy should be distributed and signed by board members annually. He suggested it be added to the first agenda of each new term.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VON SCHOEN TO ACCEPT THE THIRD READING AND ADOPT POLICY #24-02-B – CONFLICT OF INTEREST, DATED AUGUST 23, 2024, AS AMENDED

MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SABENS

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

Director Maher informed the Commission an update on the financial software was not yet available. Commissioner von Schoen asked if the continued delay has implications on the budget, e.g., assumptions were made for savings that are not being gained. Director Maher responded, overall, we remain in a good position given we utilize a roll-up budget format.

Director Maher spoke of the information provided to the Commission concerning the salary/merit pool. Feedback was requested in advance of the January 22, 2025, meeting.

As the meeting was running ahead of schedule and the presenter for Item #2 was not yet in attendance, the Commission went out of the regular order of business to take up acceptance of meeting minutes and begin the review of Action Items.

3. Board of Commissioners to review the minutes from the November 18, 2024, regular Board of Commissioners Meeting

Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting November 18, 2024

The following amendments were offered:

Page 6, Line 2; replace “doing a map flow of water based on” with “showing representative maps of water age and/or well source based on system usage,”

Page 6, Line 13; delete “maps”

Page 6, Line 14, delete “just” and insert “tests in the field” before “for calibration”

Page 10, Line 4; delete “to follow the Underwood report and”

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VON SCHOEN TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES, AS AMENDED
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CLEMENTS**

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

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

Ongoing Salt Mitigation Committee Meetings

Jill Lavoie, Business Manager, stated the support letters were sent to the NH DOT. She followed up this past Friday and received an email response indicating receipt of the letter and that an internal meeting has been scheduled after which there will be follow-up and a meeting scheduled with the Town for next steps.

Chair Provencher asked for clarification that is basically accepting the reduced salt status on Continental Boulevard and Industrial Drive. Superintendent Miner remarked perhaps adding some sort of a sign.

Update on Waterline Extensions; Palmeri, Gerard, Wilson Hill and Mullikin/Mason and Farmer

Drawings should be available this week for final review in advance of a meeting with the Town regarding pavement restorations. From there it will go to the State.

Chair Provencher spoke of the discussion that occurred at the August 19, 2024, meeting during which it was stated that Underwood Engineers, Inc. (Underwood) would provide a design of the full project limits so that a bid package could be readily available as the funding options were being finalized. If additional funding was not secured, Underwood recommended bidding each project with a base bid and an add alternate. The base bid would be limited to a project that could be fully funded by the existing grants. The add alternate would provide MVD with costs for the remainder of the project and time to secure additional funding.

Understanding the additional funding has been awarded, we should now be able to put out the full bid on all the properties that were intended. Superintendent Miner stated agreement the full project should be able to be done. He added there is uncertainty if, when going to the Governor and Council, it will cross. It may be that there remains an add alternate. He is not 100% certain.

Asked if there was a deadline for having the bids go out given there were two different sources of major grants, Business Manager Lavoie responded that was amended with a file application. NHDES recommended we do a final application that included the grants, which also changed the dates.

Commissioner Sabens asked if coordination takes place with utility providers and the Town to put other services in while that type of work is being done. Business Manager Lavoie stated a representative attends the Town activities meetings, which is where a lot of that is discussed. If there is a project that would benefit MVD or a project MVD is doing that could benefit the Town, that information is shared.

The Commission returned to the regular order of business.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VON SCHOEN THAT THE COMMISSION, 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 CLEMENT**

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

Yea: Donald Provencher, Kenneth Ayers, Erin Clement, Scott Sabens, Wolfram von Schoen
5
Nay : 0

MOTION CARRIED

*The Commission went into non-public session at 5:28 p.m.
The Commission came out of non-public session at 6:10 p.m.*

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CLEMENT THAT THE COMMISSION, BY ROLL CALL, SEAL THE MINUTES OF THE NON-PUBLIC SESSION UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMISSION VOTES THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY WOULD NO LONGER BE SERVED
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SABENS**

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

Yea: Donald Provencher, Kenneth Ayers, Erin Clement, Scott Sabens, Wolfram von Schoen
5
Nay : 0

MOTION CARRIED

2. Board of Commissioners to hear proposal from Shawn O’Keefe of Granite State De-Icing Supply relative to a Potassium Acetate/Brine Application Pilot Study at Parker Village

Shawn O’Keefe, President/CEO, Granite State De-Icing Supply, provided a presentation (can be viewed [here](#)).

The presentation began with an introduction of Mr. O’Keefe, lifelong resident of Merrimack, and cited his businesses, years of experience in the snow & ice industry, certification as a Green SnowPro master applicator, and the objective of providing information on alternative products for deicing and anti-icing within the MVD Wellhead Protection areas.

Currently, a lot of properties have committed to the use of sand. Sand isn’t technically a deicer; it is just a traction agent that loses its grip very quickly. The most common deicing agent used in the State is Sodium Chloride (road salt) due to its low cost and effectiveness. Sodium and Chloride readily dissolve in water and find their way onto vegetation and into the soil, groundwater, storm drains, and surface waters causing significant impact to the environment including substantial concerns for water quality.

According to the National Safety Council, every year over 800,000 people are hospitalized with injuries sustained in slip/fall accidents. Due to the number of lawsuits, it has become increasingly difficult for snow contractors to acquire general liability insurance.

Programs like Green SnowPro offer a level of liability protection in exchange for the contractor’s willingness to reduce their salt impact. The program is a salt reduction program not a salt elimination program. The use of sand is not an option in this program. Participants take part in the courses offered and provide information back to the program recording salt usage by town.

Lawsuits have gone beyond the direct parties involved and can include the contractor as well as management agencies, association board of directors, property owners and product and equipment manufacturers.

Sand is not a deicer. Studies have proven that after as little as 8 cars travel over sand, it will loosen its grit and fail to provide traction. It clogs drains and coats the floors of our brooks and streams killing plant life and microorganisms. Freezing rain forms ice over sand eliminating traction within minutes.

Reduced salt alternatives include salt brine, acetates and formates.

Salt Brine

Salt brine is one of the fastest growing alternatives to granular salt and/or treated salt. Salt brine is water saturated with salt, and uses one 10th of salt used in the granular form. It can be used for pretreatment and post treatments reducing the amount of salt used by up to 70%.

Liquid deicing is more effective as it stays where applied, eliminating scatter or migration off of the travel lane into green spaces by traffic. Liquid deicers are spread evenly. Applied as a pretreatment it dries out leaving the product in microscopic form in the pores of the pavement surface thus allowing the removal of snow and ice without removing the deicer from the surface. When applied to dry surfaces in advance of a storm, it will stay in place even during rain events as the solution is tacky and gets trapped in the pores of the surface (can be applied days in advance of an event).

Salt Brine vs. Granular Salt

Granular salt applications average 400-600 pounds per acre/per application. Salt brine (rate of 80 gallons per acre post treatment) is 186 pounds per acre in liquid form (50-70% reduction). Granular salt can take up to 45 minutes to start working. It takes precipitation to dissolve and transform into a brine to begin the melting process. In many cases, it is over-applied to increase the melting process.

Already a brine, salt brine works immediately. Salt brine pretreatments create a safe surface prior to a storm by eliminating the bond of snow and ice to the surface thereby eliminating snowpack, glare ice and black ice allowing snow accumulation to be mechanically removed to the surface requiring less deicer to achieve a safe surface.

Acetates

Acetates are chloride-free deicing material, that come at an increased cost compared to chloride deicers and are mostly used for deicing airport runways. They come in both liquid and dry form. Dry form acetates can be brined to help reduce the cost of the deicer.

Sodium acetate is the most cost-effective acetate product. Available in dry form this product can be used like traditional ice melt. It can also be brined to a liquid deicer. The liquid application rate is 1.5 gallons/1,000 sq. ft.

Liquid potassium acetate is a more expensive alternative. It is available in liquid form only and is shipped in 275-gallon totes or bulk tanker loads. It is a biodegradable chloride-free product that does not contaminate groundwater. The application rate is ½ gallon/1,000 sq. ft.

Salt Brine vs. Acetates

Sodium acetate only eliminates the chloride being applied. Potassium acetate has a short effective working time (few hours). Salt brine has a longer effective working time (12-18 hours).

The replacement of all granular salt use within the WPA with salt brine will significantly reduce the salt and chloride impact on the well system.

Liquid Potassium Formate

These products are very expensive and offer no additional melting capability to justify the additional cost.

Also available in liquid form, this product would be shipped in 275-gallon totes or bulk tanker loads. It is a biodegradable chloride-free product that does not contaminate groundwater.

Mr. O’Keefe stated he was present representing Parker Village directly, but also other properties within the MVD’s Well Head Protection Areas (WHPA). He believes bringing salt brine into a deicing capability within the WHPA and working on eliminating granular salt, we can reduce the salt impact as well the chloride impact on our wells.

A slide was shown identifying pre and post-treatment application numbers within the Parker Village complex. The information was broken down by area; walkways, driveways, parking areas and roadways. Total salt brine projected per storm was listed as 474.88 gallons/1,075.7 pounds/1/2 ton.

Commissioner Sabens noted identified in a previous slide was a rate of 80 gallons/acre post treatment. The driveway area is listed as 0.918/acre. If you do the math around the reduction amount listed as 50-70%, you are only including a post-treatment not the pre-treatment. Mr. O’Keefe responded that the slide that referenced the 80 gallons/acre was an example of salt versus salt brine.

Commissioner Sabens remarked that results in a little less than a 50% reduction. Mr. O’Keefe added depending on between 400-600 pounds/acre and on who is doing the application. Our cutback in salt, by using magic salt, brought us down to about 400 pounds/acre. If someone is using straight white salt it is up to about 600 pounds/acre.

Mr. O’Keefe continued stating with liquid deicing they have tracking capabilities with their equipment. Using tracking, they can click on any point in the area where they are applying and look at application rates, surface temperature, air temperature and what sections of the boon they are using. All of this information links up to a portal. They currently pre-treat for the DOT, New England Line application information, MVD, as well as Jamie Emery, Emery & Garrett Groundwater, Inc. He is also part of the Salt Reduction Committee. He reports the exact number of gallons used to the Green SnowPro program each year.

Chair Provencher asked if Jamie Emery has seen the proposal. He asked about the salt use provisions placed on Parker Village and was told they are sand only. A request was received to consider changing that. The idea was not viewed favorably as adding salt to an area that currently has a no salt restriction would result in additional salt in the groundwater. He recognized there are properties that are probably right across the street that are unrestricted putting large amounts of salt down. That is all restricted by the Town as the MVD has no enforcement authority on any of this. Commissioner Clement stated that is addressed through a site plan requirement; it is basically written on the approved site plans. The Town can enforce it.

Superintendent Miner stated he has spoken with Robert Price, Community Development Director. In the past, any alteration would have to be addressed through a site plan change. Going forward, if it is a pilot program, well documented, identifies a timeframe and the area involved, he is willing to kind of look the other way on it for the sake of documentation.

Commissioner Ayers asked how we would measure success, e.g., take readings of salt levels in the wells at different intervals? Mr. O’Keefe stated it would be a tough site as they are currently not allowed any salt use. It will be an addition. His take on a pilot would be rather than just sand only, if it were the roadways or just the driveways it could be a visual documentation of what it looks like during a storm, recording of application rates, and what it would look like when the storm is completed without using any granular salt, just the use of brine. It is an addition to the system, but it might help someone else in going to a brine product.

Chair Provencher remarked that someone who is using crystalized salt may be over-applying it. Having them change to brine would reduce the overall load. This is all kind of flashing back to the conversation that we had in looking at it in a regional plan. If you could get those properties to convert from crystalized salt to brine then you are decreasing the amount of salt going into groundwater whereas a property like this where

there is no salt and then you are using salt, even if it is brine, you would just be adding a little. When you combine all the sites together then in an overall approach, you could reduce the amount of total salt.

Commissioner Clement commented it sounds sort of like a salt credits program. Superintendent Miner remarked that is what we tried to do years ago when Parker Village first approached us. It was going to be the Commons and Parker Village working together. The theory was the Commons was going to use less and spread a little bit into Parker Village, but collectively they were going to use less. That was the ultimate goal. For whatever reason it fell through.

Business Manager Lavoie stated there is prior data. We sample quarterly. If there does seem to be a spike we will know it is coming.

Mr. O’Keefe stated with the changes his landscape and snow removal company have made they have gone from between 10-12 tons of salt per storm to 1.6 tons in liquid form. They are saving, at max, 10.4 tons of salt per storm across 10 acres. Chair Provencher added that again is property that was being salted with crystal salt and converted to brine.

Commissioner Sabens suggested the figure cited would be good to have in a presentation like this, especially if there is the need to present to the Town. It may also be beneficial to have information on studies that have been done on sodium in water levels.

Mr. O’Keefe commented that the Lake George aquifer is pushing salt brine largely because Lake George is borderline a dead lake. That runs all the way up through to Winchendon.

Chair Provencher asked if Jamie Emery is aware of this presentation and stated the desire to hear his feedback. Mr. O’Keefe stated he has not yet spoken with him about this.

Asked if he was recommending the use of salt brine or acetate, Mr. O’Keefe responded from a cost effective standpoint, salt brine is the best answer. Potassium acetate is a salt-free, chloride-free product that could be used as well. It is just a bit expensive for the community.

Asked if the pilot would be for the entire Parker Village development or just the driveways and walkways, Mr. O’Keefe stated his goal would be for every property within the WPA to convert over to salt brine. He believes that would result in a huge reduction. Chair Provencher noted the chart identified roadways, parking areas, driveways and walkways. The total is around 3.8 acres. Mr. O’Keefe noted that figure includes what they call the big house (condos).

Asked about the cost difference between the acetate and the salt brine, Mr. O’Keefe remarked brine has a retail cost of \$.80 - \$.85/gallon where acetate is probably \$40.00-\$45.00/gallon. Formates are even more expensive (another 20%). Asked about the square foot coverage difference, he stated potassium acetate has a larger coverage area but it also has a very short lifespan (3-5 hours). Asked about the cost difference between each product (over an acre), Mr. O’Keefe did not have that information readily available. Commissioner Sabens remarked that would be the easy one to decide on. He questioned considering only utilizing acetate after the storm for this development. Mr. O’Keefe stated the key to liquids is before the storm to keep the bonding from happening. Commissioner Sabens commented on the possibility that you put the material down and the storm is not realized, and was told the nice thing about salt brine is it is not scattering and being driven off into green spaces. Asked if acetate goes away if put down in advance of the

storm, he stated it would stay on the surface until used. It would take more product if put on after the storm because you are working to drive through that snowpack and icepack to get back to the surface.

Commissioner von Schoen remarked it sounds that one of the key things we need to do is get other property owners to buy into this technology so we can give those that are subject to this ordinance more leeway. We can't do that. The Town has to do that. Maybe it is even a matter of having a discussion with the Town about changing some of the language of the ordinance.

He recommended perhaps talking to Merrimack TV to see if a program could be done there. The problem is nobody from the MVD or Town can really advertise for an individual person/business despite appreciation for the fact that Mr. O'Keefe has been part of this from the first moment at both the Town and State level.

He would expect the need for at least three options. He commented we cannot vouch for you or advertise for you, but something needs to happen. He asked if Mr. O'Keefe could identify other businesses that could work with him on the messaging. Mr. O'Keefe stated there to be two other contractors that are using liquid in town.

Commissioner Von Schoen noted he personally reached out to other businesses and there was not a whole lot of response received. Mr. O'Keefe stated he developed the company because he was asked to be a dealer and saw it as a way to not only bring salt brine into Merrimack but into the State. When he started five years ago he had to go out of state to buy product. Now they make salt brine. Each individual contractor can make their own as well. The two other contractors he spoke of make their own as does the Town.

Asked if he was requesting support from the Town to switch to the brine, Mr. O'Keefe stated he is bringing a message that he foresees could reduce the salt impact to the people that provide us with our drinking water.

Stressed was that the Town has to make the final decision, but the Commission can put its support behind the product without supporting any particular company.

Mr. O'Keefe remarked we are looking at helping Parker Village out because of some situations they have had from a legal standpoint and from there expanding through the entire town. His company uses it on every property they service throughout the entire town.

Chair Provencher remarked the challenge is to do a pilot study on a property that is currently not applying any salt is only going to add salt. The only thing that will result from the pilot test is more salt going into our groundwater. There is no debating that. That being said, all of these properties that are restricted have a real issue to deal with. There is no doubt about that either. He does not think measuring salt levels in our wells will give us an answer because they fluctuate. It is overall going up consistently.

Commissioner von Schoen added correlation is not causation in that regard at all because we don't know what other properties have been throwing down. A great way would be to get at least one or two comparable properties in the area that are currently grandfathered in to say we will be part of that pilot.

Commissioner Clement added we could get behind it more if you came to us and said we have three properties, they cannot use salt and these guys are using salt. Every year these three properties use this much salt. We will have all three go to brine and now we will use this much salt, which is less with the three of

them together. To make this a study that actually has benefit for the watershed, there need to be properties that are using salt reduce their salt so we can see all of them together.

Commissioner von Schoen added we don't need 15, 20 or all properties, we need two or one comparable. He remarked he would argue that it is fair for the district and the Town to put their name behind that even though that may get you additional business with these properties because now it is a pilot project and you are basically acting as a contractor of ours to run. That is something he personally could get behind. Chair Provencher commented this is something that is being proposed by an individual bringing it to us. We can say if we are in favor of it or not but it is up to whomever wants to do the legwork to find people and talk to them about it, etc.

Commissioner Clement remarked if the other landscaping companies have the same capabilities that you do to track it, it doesn't mean you have to do all three properties. It could be that those other two companies are servicing properties that used salt previously and are now going to brine and we are going to put this data together. We have to have a credit to the watershed to make it agreeable.

Commissioner Sabens stated his impression Outdoor Pride Landscaping's use of brine is relatively new. He questioned if they have historical data of what they were putting down for salt. Mr. O'Keefe stated he could inquire with them. What could be done is figure out what they were using for granular salt versus what they would be using. Mr. O'Keefe stated he could do that on two of his properties. He does not have anything in Wells 4 & 5.

Commissioner von Schoen remarked if you had customers already in the area that you switched over to brine then we have that credit already. Mr. O'Keefe agreed. Asked if that is in the same WHPA, he replied the three that he services already are on Continental Boulevard (Well 3). Parker Village is in 4 & 5.

He spoke of taking care of areas like the post office, which he believes is outside of the WHPA, and was told it is within the WHPA. They do not have a restriction.

Chair Provencher asked if there is a priority/preference on the walkways, sidewalks, driveways, or roadways, Mr. O'Keefe stated the priority to be walkways and driveways. Every driveway in the property is sloped.

Commissioner von Schoen stated he would be supportive of a motion to engage in a discussion with the Community Development Department, that Mr. O'Keefe sharpen the numbers with the properties that are already being serviced to identify savings already achieved in that area and provide that to staff and that the Commission support.

Superintendent Miner reiterated he has already spoken with Director Price. Asked if he feels he has the authority to allow that, Superintendent Miner stated he does, for a study. This is something we are trying to work through and will only help him out in the future if we need to go through an ordinance or something to that effect to help solve the problem we are having with salt. The original request that was brought to his attention he believed to be either a driveway or driveways. That is the way he approached it with Director Price, and he was fine with that. If it were going to be the whole development he would go back to revisit that conversation with him. If we are just talking driveways he feels confident he would be fine with a written plan that included a duration of a study, etc.

Mr. O’Keefe stated he would be able to report on the amount of salt put down. Planning on walkways and driveways it would not be GPS rate controlled. It is a little more hose reel spray, but they can still track the amount of liquid being used.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VON SCHOEN TO SUPPORT A PILOT PROJECT BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND THE MERRIMACK VILLAGE DISTRICT IN AGREEMENT THAT IT MAKES SENSE FOR PARKER VILLAGE TO GET A DEVIATION FROM THE NO SALT SITE RESTRICTIONS AND ALLOW FOR SALT BRINE APPLICATION DURING THE WINTER OF 2024 UP UNTIL APRIL OF 2025 FOR THEIR WALKWAYS, DRIVEWAYS, AND PARKING AREAS
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER AYERS**

ON THE QUESTION

Commissioner von Schoen noted when looking at the overall tonnage, including parking areas is not much of an increase.

Chair Provencher noted evidence provided for the post office, which is good to know. If there are any other applications coming in, e.g., pilot studies in the future, we would be looking for that calculated balance to show if someone is proposing to use brine on a property that did not use any salt they would come in identifying other properties that have used salt and are going to brine. The last thing we would want to do is open the floodgates for all of these restricted properties to start using salt. He wants to see the tradeoff.

Chair Provencher suggested Mr. O’Keefe may want to report back after the winter.

Asked what success looks like, Chair Provencher remarked he does not believe there is a barometer for that. Commissioner von Schoen stated we already have the success to be honest because some properties have already been converted. We are responding now to basically the fact that these properties are applying between 50-70% less salt thanks to brine use in that area. We’re almost harvesting the benefits of that already. The success would basically be that this works for Parker Village and because we have reduced in other areas already we can potentially be more lenient going forward in other areas as well providing surrounding properties also switch to brine.

Chair Provencher commented it has not come to fruition in the graphs of the sodium and chloride of those wells though. Those are still on an upward trajectory. Mr. O’Keefe stated the areas they are doing are insignificant compared to areas that are getting granular salt.

Chair Provencher remarked if it starts going into the area where you are reducing salt load there in order to use it here where it wasn’t before, that almost bodes for having a master salt policy for private and public landowners within a particular area. Then you don’t have any more grandfathered situations. By balancing out these sites like this that is what you are saying that eventually you want to have all of the sites in the aquifer protection districts be able to use the minimal amount of salt, if using any.

Commissioner Sabens stated what he was hearing is the success is to watch that graph show improvement. That will take years to measure. As long as it does not skyrocket then we are okay and then have the salt use in the town overall a reduction.

Commissioner von Schoen suggested the numbers we are going to see after we do specifically Parker Village he thinks is a combination of things. We will have a community that is safer and we are hopefully going to get a statement that they are very appreciative of it and feel safer, which is a statement that can be used as we approach other properties that might be hesitant to move away from salt. If we have a fairly large property or a community like Parker Village buying into the idea of brine we have a success story. We maybe can't measure it, but we have a success story. If you deliver the numbers on the other hand of clients that you have already converted to brine and the kind of reduction that led to and we compare to what Parker Village is going to be on and numbers it normally would see with traditional granular salt applications, that is a story we can develop and communicate.

Mr. O'Keefe remarked along with that, and into next season, hopefully we will have an opportunity from the study we are doing now with the EPA, where we might be able to offer some form of incentive to the public.

Commissioner Sabens remarked it might actually be for contractors doing the work because they have to buy the equipment to put down brine.

Noted was that there is a salt calculator that will tell a contractor what will be saved by utilizing brine and how long it will take to cover the cost of purchasing new equipment.

Commissioner von Schoen commented he would even propose some kind of tradeshow or open house that MVD actually supports, but we have to have more than one business participate. For next summer maybe we open up a parking lot and bring a couple of contractors and suppliers and invite community members. It is about getting the word out.

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

Asked about next steps, Mr. O'Keefe stated the Board President for Parker Village was viewing via Zoom.

Tom Mansur stated appreciation for the Commission having listened to the presentation all the way through and participating so generously in the conversation. He is very much in favor of going forward with the pilot. Not only would he be willing to make a statement, but he would be willing to speak to any property owners or provide a presentation from a customer perspective on how it works, how effective it was, etc. He is very pleased by the outcome of this discussion.

4. Board of Commissioners to review Action Items from previous meetings and those to be added from this meeting (CONTINUED)

Salt Reduction Letter

Business Manager Lavoie stated a meeting with Emery & Garrett is scheduled for Thursday.

Superintendent Miner spoke of the intent to combine that with a letter for the salt reduction watershed planning grant.

Media Alternative Vendor Pan (Pilot Test)

Superintendent Miner stated the entire unit (skid) is anticipated during the first week of January. The engineer will observe the assembly and the media will be loaded. That should be up and running in the first couple of weeks in January. Asked if we have the media and resin for the other 6 columns, he stated his belief they do.

Waterline extensions for the Saint-Gobain projects

Superintendent Miner stated the Christopher, Wildcat Falls, and Brenda Lane watermain entrances have been completed and tested. Basically, all outside work has been done. Fifteen out of the 16 homes are complete. They have paid for the entrance apps. We are basically just waiting on the inside work. They did temp. paving and will come back in the spring for the final paving.

Mitchell Woods PFAS Status and Power Supply

Superintendent Miner stated they spoke with Peter Pitsas, P.E., Underwood Engineers. He hasn't received an answer yet from the electrical engineer.

5. Old Business

Asked about the status of radios, Superintendent Miner stated he is working on it with deputy Chief Tarleton. He expressed his impression that what is in the communication building is owned and will be maintained by the Town. Deputy Chief Tarleton was under the same impression, but said he would dig deeper into that.

Commissioner von Schoen commented on discussion around the potential of splitting off from the Town because of cases in the past where it didn't work out too well. Superintendent Miner remarked he was looking to first determine who owns what.

Chair Provencher referred to the PFAS Monitoring Summary table. On the first column (Wells 4 & 5) he believes where it says, "Date of 8 mo of lead operation", the date of 6-22-2025 should be 6-08-2025. He believes what is being done in all of these cases is looking at the "Date put into lead position" and adding 8 months. Superintendent Miner stated he would confirm when the changeout is done at Wells 4 & 5.

6. New Business

Commissioner von Schoen recommended Block5 be contacted and asked to provide training for Zoom; specifically, for PowerPoint presentations and the intricacies around that.

He spoke of a breakage on Baboosic Lake Road. There was a strip that went across the street that was about 1' high after it was paved. Commissioner Clement commented on it having been shaved down. Superintendent Miner stated it to be one of the Saint-Gobain water connections. It is not us. That is actually SUR Construction West, Inc. and is a temporary patch.

Chair Provencher remarked Wells 4 & 5 detected the highest PFOA level ever recorded in those wells in November. Commissioner von Schoen noted that to have been pre filter. Chair Provencher commented no one has ever analyzed the fact that the soil is contaminated; where are we in that? Is it going to get worse before it gets better? It looks like it has been getting worse.

Commissioner von Schoen asked what the pump rate was prior to that spike.

Chair Provencher remarked that the other thing that would correlate is that when it is a drier season PFOA seems to get higher, and we have had a drought. We are technically probably still in it. Superintendent Miner stated the test wells haven't been bad. Business Manager Lavoie stated more could be asked for. Chair Provencher reiterated it seems to follow precipitation. He tracked it in the other wells. It is kind of hard because usually we get more pumping during the summer when it is dry, but he does not think we were pumping high in November.

Superintendent Miner stated we are actually at a lower rate. During the summer we would have been at our higher rate.

Chair Provencher stated this drought was perhaps good as a means of figuring out that elevated PFOA is probably precipitation related more so than pumping.

7. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Miner stated a media changeout was just done at Wells 7 & 8 (December 11th). The turnaround was originally scheduled for the 19th. They are having some issues with their plant. Our media is not feeding through the plant fast enough to actually get a load back to us for the 19th. It looks like the turnaround time will be around January 3rd. Turnaround remains much better than our previous experiences with the last company.

Chair Provencher noted the LAG vessel is still online by itself and was told that is the case. Superintendent miner stated the vessel in question is the one that we get the 4,000 extra media in as well. This is the first changeout with Carbon Corp. As far as makeup is concerned, he is uncertain if that will be needed.

Noted was that the Capital Improvement Plan would be presented to the Planning Board the following evening.

8. Questions from the Public/Press - None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER AYERS TO ADJOURN

MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SABENS

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

The December 16, 2024, regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Submitted by Dawn MacMillan, Recording Secretary