

**MERRIMACK VILLAGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING
FEBRUARY 24, 2025
MEETING MINUTES
(approved March 10, 2025)**

A Public Hearing was conducted by the Merrimack Village District Board of Commissioners on Monday, February 24, 2025, at 7:00 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

**PUBLIC HEARING
FY26 Proposed Operating Budget
Warrant Articles for the 2025 Annual Meeting**

Chair Provencher explained the purpose of the public hearing was to gather public input on the proposed FY26 operating budget and Warrant articles that will come before the voters at the Annual Meeting on March 25, 2025, 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 February 23, 2025, 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.

ARTICLE 1: To choose one (1) Commissioner 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 a candidate for office. 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) Commissioner to fill one (1) year of 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 a candidate for office. 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 see if the Merrimack Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six million five hundred thirty-eight thousand nine hundred fifty-three dollars (\$6,538,953) for general municipal operations for the 2025-2026 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, 2025 ending June 30, 2026 for all departments; Administration, Distribution, Treatment, Debt Services and Insurance/Benefits.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Merrimack Village District vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixty-eight thousand four hundred ninety dollars (\$68,490) 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 2023-2024 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 5: 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 unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required.)

The purpose of this article is to use a portion of the revenue surplus 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 6: 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 unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required.)

The purpose of this article is to use a portion of the revenue surplus 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 7: This article is to transact any other business and close the meeting.

Chair Provencher opened the floor for public input at 7:00 p.m.

No public input was offered.

Chair Provencher closed the public hearing at 7:01 p.m.

The February 24, 2025, public hearing was declared closed at 7:01 p.m.

Submitted by Dawn MacMillan, Recording Secretary