Village District of Eastman
2025 Annual Meeting, February 27, 2025
South Cove Activity Center, Eastman

VDE officials in attendance: Commissioner Terry Large, Commissioner Karla Karash, Commissioner Bill Weeks, Treasurer Bill Samuels, Clerk Lin Hill, and General Manager Amy Lewis.

Moderator Lorie McClory was joined by Assistant Moderator Dave Cole.

Supervisors of the Checklists in attendance: Doris Lefebrve and Kerry McNally of Springfield; Lynn Langley and Jane Pirro of Enfield; and John Hansen, Suzanne Goldman, and Donna Stamper of Grantham.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Moderator McClory, who declared the polls open for voting on Article 1: Election of Officers. McClory reminded voters to check out with their checklist supervisor after casting their ballots. The polls will close at 8:00PM, at which time any absentee ballots will be open and counted.

Moderator McClory provided a brief introduction, welcoming residents to the Annual Meeting. She introduced Dave Cole as her Assistant Moderator for the evening. McClory summarized the rules of the meeting, and stated that they were available as handouts. A motion was made and seconded (Barbara Jones, 825 Covered Bridge Lane and Brad Moses, 43 Troon Drive) to dispense with the reading of the rules. By unanimous vote, the meeting rules became part of the official meeting record.

McClory then asked for a motion to allow non-resident VDE personnel to speak at the meeting. Robert Meyer (11 Turnbuckle) so moved, with Rick Karash (23 Shore) seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 2

McClory read the Article as written: To see if the Village District of Eastman will vote to raise and appropriate $1,263,968, which represents the adjusted potable water budget. This amount includes $1,006,060 for the Administration and Operating Budget and $257,908 for principal and interest on Debt Service. Said sum does not include special or individual Articles addressed below. The Commissioners recommend this appropriation, and a majority vote is required.

Commissioner Karash moved to accept the article as presented, and Commissioner Weeks seconded.

Prior to speaking to the article, Commissioner Large provided a brief summary of what the Village District of Eastman (VDE) is and what the VDE does.

Several factors are driving the 2025 budget, including the need for additional field staff. There were areas of savings in the 2024 operating budget, as well as unexpected revenues, which allowed the VDE to move $35,000 from the general fund to offset anticipated 2025 taxes. Commissioner Large also outlined several drinking water projects slated to begin in 2025.

R. Meyer: How is the split between usage revenue and tax revenue determined? Commissioner Large explained that the percent of increase in taxation by itself supplied the revenue needed to meet the

expense requirements of the budget. Changing only the tax rate was approved for its simplicity. A cost analysis outlined the expenses that change based on water produced, and those expenses that occur regardless of water produced. The VDE budget is set based on what we have to spend and what we expect to collect. For 2025, this resulted in a 6% increase in taxation with no change to user fees.

Robert Ross, 841 Cove Drive: Will there be a way to measure the amount of lead concentration in the drinking water? Commissioner Large explained that the sampling schedule for lead and copper concentrations is determined by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), and we will be required to sample 40 residential sites in 2025. The VDE's raw water sources are also tested for lead; with source results showing low to no lead present, the presumption is that the lead is being introduced elsewhere in the system, most likely with service lines and fittings inside older homes.

David Philippy, 8 Deer Run: Has the VDE found any saddle components containing lead? Commissioner Large responded no.

GM Lewis added that even though the sampling sites are predetermined by NHDES, the state has been very open to adding additional testing sites. Any resident wishing to be added to the sampling site list should contact the VDE office.

Commissioner Large continued with his explanation of the proposed 2025 budget. There were no further questions or comments.

Moderator McClory read the article a second time and called for a vote on Article 2 as presented. AYE – UNANIMOUS; ARTICLE 2 PASSES.

ARTICLE 3

McClory read the article as written: To see if the Village District of Eastman will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $500,000 to be added to the previously established Water Mains, Meters, and Valves Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. The Commissioners recommend this appropriation, and a majority vote is required.

Commissioner Weeks moved to accept the article as presented, and Commissioner Large seconded.

Commissioner Karash spoke to the article: this is the largest reserve fund for the drinking water division, and pays for all maintenance, repairs, and construction of the drinking water infrastructure. The VDE capital plan calls for a 20% replacement of all water mains each decade, with the highest consequence-of-failure areas replaced first. Annual funding of this reserve account is needed to continue progress in updating and improving the infrastructure.

Robert Parker, 9 Sunset Walk: How many saddles were replaced in 2024? GM Lewis replied that at least six saddles were replaced as emergency repairs, at an approximate cost of $100,000. Mr. Parker said that with roughly 400 saddles over 40 years old, that is a high cost.

With no further discussion, Moderator McClory called for a vote on Article 3 as presented. AYE – UNANIMOUS; ARTICLE 3 PASSES.

ARTICLE 4

McClory read the article as written: To see if the Village District of Eastman will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $115,000 to be added to these previously established Reserve Funds:

- Vehicle and Equipment Replacement: $30,000
- Water Treatment: $20,000
- Well Exploration, Development, and Maintenance: $20,000
- Building Maintenance: $15,000
- Computer, Software, and Technology Upgrades and Maintenance: $10,000
- Water Storage Tank Repair and Maintenance: $20,000

The Commissioners recommend this appropriation, and a majority vote is required.

Commissioner Large moved to accept the article as presented, and Commissioner Karash seconded.

Commissioner Weeks spoke to the article, explaining that these reserve funds cover a multitude of large planned expenditures.

With no further discussion, Moderator McClory called for a vote on Article 4 as presented. AYE – UNANIMOUS, ARTICLE 4 PASSES.

McClory took a moment to remind voters to cast their ballots and to check out with their respective supervisor.

ARTICLE 5

McClory read the article as written: To see if the Village District of Eastman will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $303,854 which represents the wastewater budget. This amount includes $259,700 for the Administration and Operating Budget and $44,154 for principal and interest on Debt Service. Said sum does not include special or individual Articles addressed below. This appropriation shall be financed from sewer user fees and/or special assessment paid by the sewer customers only, with no amount from general taxation. The Commissioners recommend this appropriation, and a majority vote is required.

Commissioner Karash moved to accept the article as presented, and Commissioner Weeks seconded.

Commissioner Large spoke to the article, giving a brief summary of the wastewater progress in 2024. There is additional work to be done to complete the West Cove A and B lift station upgrades which will be addressed this spring. The VDE will also have new NHDES requirements to meet for the subsurface disposal project approval. He highlighted the anticipated 2025 wastewater projects and budget points.

R. Parker: Is the subsurface system a large leaching field? Commissioner Large replied yes, it will be constructed at the wastewater holding ponds out by John's Glen. The expected cost at this point is approximately $750,000.

With no further discussion, Moderator McClory called for a vote on Article 5 as presented. AYE – UNANIMOUS, ARTICLE 5 PASSES.

ARTICLE 6

McClory read the article as written: To see if the Village District of Eastman will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $182,062 to be added to the previously established GENERAL WASTEWATER SYTEM REPAIR & UPGRADES CRF (#587). This appropriation shall be financed from sewer user fees and/or special assessment paid by the sewer customers only, with no amount from general taxation. The Commissioners recommend this appropriation, and a majority vote is required.

Commissioner Weeks moved to accept the article as presented, and Commissioner Large seconded.

Commissioner Karash spoke to the article, outlining the need to continue funding the wastewater reserve account to plan for improvements and additions to the wastewater infrastructure.

With no further discussion, Moderator McClory called for a vote on Article 6 as presented. AYE – UNANIMOUS, ARTICLE 6 PASSES.

ARTICLE 7

McClory read the article as written: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Commissioner Karash moved to accept the article as presented, and Commissioner Weeks seconded.

The floor was opened to general discussion.

Commissioner Large thanked former Commissioner Duncan Wood for his fifteen years on the VDE board, and also Commissioner Karash, who was stepping down from the board. Commissioner Karash offered her thanks as well, saying that it has been fabulous to have had the community support for the VDE's efforts over the last several years.

R. Meyer: Is the VDE applying for and receiving any grants available for infrastructure projects? What are we eligible for? Commissioner Large responded that the VDE has applied for and received grants for various projects, including the current well development project on Glenwood Road. That project was one of three projects approved by NHDES for funding through the State Revolving Fund program, which uses federal funds at a low interest rate to fund state and local government infrastructure projects. GM Lewis added that there is a loan available through NHDES to help communities with the Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) requirements; this loan offers principal forgiveness of up to 70%, although there are several financing factors figured into actual forgiveness.

B. Jones: The information provided to the community, and the clarity of that information, is very well done. She thanked the VDE.

R. Ross: Grants can be difficult to write; thank you to the individuals undertaking those efforts.

Lin Hill, VDE Clerk: Thank you to the VDE board, especially Commissioner Karash. So much is done by the Commissioners that is not visible to the community. Clerk Hill urged attendance at the next VDE Open House, which offers the opportunity to see what the VDE does.

With no further discussion, Moderator McClory asked for a motion to recess the meeting until 8:00PM, at which time the ballot box will be closed to voting. Commissioner Weeks so moved, and Commissioner Large seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting recessed until 8:00PM.

At 8:00PM, Moderator McClory asked for a motion to reconvene the meeting. Commissioner Large so moved, and Commissioner Weeks seconded. There was one dissent; the meeting was reconvened. McClory declared the voting closed, and the absentee ballots were processed by the Supervisors of the Checklists. Commissioner Large moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Weeks seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the Village District of Eastman closed at 8:01PM.

Election results (45 total ballots cast):

- Commissioner, 3-year term: **Brad Moses (43)**
- Commissioner, 2-year term: **William Weeks (43)**
- Treasurer, 1-year term: **William Samuels (42)**
- Clerk, 1-year term: **Lin Hill (41)**
- Moderator, 1-year term: **David Cole (write-in, 36);** Lorie McClory (write-in, 2)

Respectfully submitted,

Lin Hill
Clerk, Village District of Eastman