Village District of Eastman
Commissioners' Meeting, February 19, 2026
9:00 AM, VDE Office/Zoom

In attendance: Commissioner Terry Large, Commissioner Brad Moses, Treasurer Bill Samuels, Assistant Treasurer Dave Wright (Zoom), Clerk Lin Hill, and General Manager Amy Lewis.

Guests: Dave Cole, Moderator
John Tomasz - 6 Pleasant Drive

Commissioner Large called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

Commissioner Large made a motion to approve the minutes from January 17, 2026 as revised. Commissioner Moses seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Commissioner Moses made a motion to approve the minutes from January 21, 2026 as presented. Commissioner Large seconded and all were in favor.

Field/Operations:

Commissioner Large shared the auto reminder that was sent from NHDES that our monthly samples were due. New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has requested monthly water quality reporting instead of quarterly because discolored water has occurred throughout the system particularly during the first quarter of 2026.

GM Lewis stated that the Lead Service Line Inventory inspections are still being conducted. The number of inspections has dwindled to one or two a week.

GM Lewis and Commissioner Large had a discussion with DES for clarity on the LSLI compliance. DES requires 100% identification by November 1, 2027. VDE needs to validate that there is no lead in the system. Of the 1400 service lines there are 388 lines that are still unidentified; this includes both utility side and customer side of the service lines. A replacement plan is due for any lead lines found by 2037. They would need to be replaced by 11/1/2037 on both the utility side and the customer side. GM Lewis stated that every examination that VDE has done so far has shown no lead in the system.

GM Lewis announced that a $60,000 grant that expires in 2027 was received to investigate the VDE side of the service lines for customers who have had their homes already checked for lead and were negative.

GM Lewis updated Commissioners on the status of the current NH drought levels. Sullivan County is still considered to be in moderate/severe drought. The Commissioners agreed to keep the water restrictions in place at this time.

GM Lewis and Commissioner Moses are reviewing the billing statements and working on layout changes to improve the way the information is presented. Possible statement templates will be brought to the next Commissioners' meeting.

Drinking Water:

GM Lewis shared that all 3 filters have been cleaned and rehabbed by Carbon Filtration Systems and are back online. Greensand and Filter issues were affecting water discoloration. There have been complaints of discolored water since late December from around the community and there is not an isolated area to concentrate on. GM Lewis explained that the air scour valve on filter 3 that receives untreated water failed. It was fully blocked with media so it could not perform a good backwash. The scour grid inside the filter (the part that produces air) broke loose so it could not remove the iron and manganese scales. That filter was taken offline on January 4th. Manual valves were installed on filters 1 & 2 to control the backwash procedure until the air scour issue is resolved. Arrangements have been made with Weston & Sampson to set up the cleaning of all three filters and replacement of filter media. There was another valve replaced 2 weeks prior to this failure in another filter that was sticking during the backwashes and was replaced before it could become an issue.

Commissioner Large confirmed the acceptance of the Carbon Filtration System proposal of $95,295 for the maintenance and rebedding of the filtration system. Commissioner Moses seconded the motion. All were in favor.

GM Lewis explained the events of February 6th with loss of water and/or pressure. Carbon Filtration Systems was onsite working on the filters. Maintenance on filters 1 and 3 were completed. Four backwashes (2 per filter) were performed in order to completely clean the new media, which caused a loss of pressure as filter 2 could not produce enough water. An email was sent out asking for water to be conserved as there was a risk of a shortage of water due to the backwashes.

GM Lewis shared the pressure study PSI results from Highwood Way between 23-43psi from December 2025. The results show higher pressures when the plant is running, lower pressure when using run off. The minimum pressure allowed is 20psi, so these requirements are being met. GM Lewis will discuss these results with the customers. Customers will be asked to put the pressure loggers on again for another month.

GM Lewis updated the Commissioners on the Overwatch grant status. The VDE is eligible for a total of $40,000 in grants to cover instrumentation improvements - $20,000 each for drinking water and wastewater.

<u>In Construction</u>

- Glenwood Wells: Final approval is in process with NHDES. GM Lewis met with KA Stevens, Mike Duffy from Horizons, and Randy Suozzo from NHDES to see what is needed to finish the project. NHDES has not given full approval yet since Horizons needs to respond to NHDES with answers to their comments on the permit application. NHDES is waiting for drawdown data on the proposed wells and how they affect existing wells. Notice of Award will be signed and date will be set for when work will begin.

<u>In Planning</u>

- GM Lewis announced that West Cove A & D water main replacement project being designed by Weston & Sampson is in the final stages. Bids are due on March 17.

- Operations Reports: GM Lewis gave updates on the following:
    - Spreadsheets were reviewed.
    - MNR data was reviewed.

- GM Lewis will be in contact with Andy Sharpe at Underwood to check on the status of:
    - Design of "southern tier" water main replacements consistent with Corrective Action Plan.
    - Preparation for plan/bid/on-site supervision of Hilltop Tank cleaning consistent with Corrective Action Plan.
    - Design/bid/on-site supervision of "north end chlorine injection system" to be undertaken in concert with Hilltop Tank cleaning.
    - Underwood and Weston & Sampson - research and recommend "point of entry" whole house filtration systems for VDE to consider/recommend to customers consistent with Corrective Action Plan.
    - Bid/on-site supervision of "Pothole" inspections of VDE side of service lines in satisfaction of LSLI requirements.
- Operations reports spreadsheets and MNR data were reviewed.

Wastewater Projects:

<u>In Construction</u>

- A punch list of items for WCA/B pump station replacements is expected shortly so this project can be finalized. Andy Sharpe of Underwood Engineering is reviewing the "as-builts" for this project.
- The Subsurface Disposal Field construction began with land clearing at the holding pond pump station.
- Underwood Engineers is working with Champlin Associates (as implementors) for SCADA integration at the holding ponds lift station. This can be done during the winter shutdown.

<u>In Planning</u>

- WCA Force Main Investigation: Underwood Engineers and Champlin Associates have determined the size of the air relief valves on the Trail 6 force main to be replaced. These valves may not be working properly, and there may be other reasons for the pressure issues on that line. Underwood Engineers will also be looking at location of additional manholes to be determined by GPR/investigative excavation. Champlin Associates has procured the replacement air relief valves so this project can begin once the trail is accessible.

The operations reports were reviewed. Everything is operating as it should.

Financial:

GM Lewis presented the Board of Commissioners with fiscal year 2025 budget for review, stating the final numbers were better than anticipated.

GM Lewis shared with the Commissioners that she received a debt limit certificate from DRA per an earlier request. With the anticipated bond article for 2026, the VDE will remain under the debt limit for borrowing purposes.

The review of the current drinking water CIP/MPP is in progress and will be posted to the website once complete. This effort will begin in April, following the Annual Meeting, and will be led by Commissioner Large.

Other:

Water discoloration complaints from Longwood Drive have been received. Executive Assistant Zani will follow up with the customer to see if quality has improved.

Commissioner Large gave a summary of the Greensward Special Place meeting held this past week. He addressed Greensward residents to explain the reasons for the recent discolored water and what the VDE is doing to correct the issue.

It was observed that the time was 12:35. With more to discuss, a motion was made and seconded to recess and continue this meeting to Wednesday, February 25, at 1PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrill Zani
Executive Assistant
Village District of Eastman