

VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE
WATER AND LIGHT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 15, 2024
Wednesday

5:30PM
MW&L Office

PRESENT:

Trustees: Bob Heanue, Brad Limoge, Carl Fortune and Tom Snipp

Staff: Scott Johnstone, Kevin Newton, Penny Jones, David Heller and Brian Quad

Guest: Meagan Young, Cheryl Choge

1) CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairman Heanue called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

2) CONSIDER AGENDA ADJUSTMENT: None.

3) PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

4) APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD MAY 1, 2024:

On a **motion** by Trustee Limoge and seconded by Trustee Snipp, the board approved (4-0) the minutes of the regular meeting held on May 1, 2024.

5) CHECK REGISTERS APPROVAL:

One question was asked and answered. Then, on a **motion** by Trustee Fortune and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (4-0) the check registers.

6) OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Asset Management Plan Training with VT DEC:

Meagan Young and Cheryl Choge of VT DEC gave an update on forgivable loans for asset management plans and to talk with MW&L about our asset management plan that we have and how we were going to use it. With this meeting, and once our staff attends upcoming asset management plan training, we will be in full compliance to have our loan forgiven.

b. Management Update:

Scott was pleased to announce that Brian Quad has been promoted to Chief Water Operator. Trustee Limoge asked why the upgrade of the water line for Harrison Avenue was moved up. There is a 3" galvanized line on that street and, once replaced, will allow looping from Union Street down Harrison Avenue to Congress Street and then Main Street. The Chairman asked if we refurbish valves or just install new ones. We install new ones due to the age of the ones we are removing. Some valves are 100+ years old and have leather packings. We had Grimes, Gravel Construction and MSI meet to discuss the damage at Well #2, the Green River Dam Access Road and the damage at Cady's Falls. Grimes just finished their work at Well #2 and just have to install a driveway. They will then move onto Cady's Falls. Kevin spent 5-6 hours yesterday with the FEMA inspection crew to look at damage at Well #3, the generator at Well #3, the damage at Well #2 and the scouring that Grimes was in the process of fixing when they visited. Trustees asked if management is comfortable being down to one well with no backup. Scott would like to have a backup well even though the State says you don't need one anymore and won't

fund one. For now, we plan to have a backup for every component of Well #3 knowing that we have at least five days of water storage in our reservoirs. Logging at Bugbee Springs should be finishing in the next 2-3 weeks.

Electric crews began setting a bunch of new poles on the distribution system in Stowe this winter and that work continues as time allows. David, Scott, lawyers and the PUC hearing officer met with the Adam's in Stowe for a site visit of the 3329 transmission line. Next step will be the official PUC hearing. Blow & Cote has arrived at Plant #2 and are replacing the missing material behind the wing wall. Then they will bring in a crane on the platform they will create next to the gatehouse and will begin dredging from inside the pond to outside the wingwall. Dredging should take about a month. The pre-paint inspection of our new bucket truck will take place next week. We had an accident pole at Route 15 and Route 15A. We are upgrading transformers for car chargers. We have asked VPPSA to see if we can change our Terms & Conditions to say that customers MUST notify us if they intend to install car chargers or heat pumps. If making that change to our T&C will take too long, or is not allowed, then we will start a PR/news campaign.

The DPS is working on changing the disconnect rules. Part of the change is to allow for remote disconnects, which we will be able to do once we convert to AML. The other big change is notifying landlords when a property has been disconnected. We are in the process of identifying AirBnB's that are not owner occupied in order to switch them from residential rates to commercial rates. Penny just received a draft report of the audit but has not been able to review it yet.

VPPSA has been informed that their bond's are on Moody's negative watch list due to VPPSA carrying too much of the accounts payables for a couple of municipalities. Both muni's are in the process of paying up. It will be 12-18 months before Moody's looks at it again but the good news is it did not get downgraded, just put on the negative watch list. We've received three projects for Amy Wade/Special Projects. Scott has a meeting tomorrow with the new Town Manager. Chairman Heanue and Scott met with the Chairman of the Selectboard about putting in a couple of different types of flood mitigation requests for grants from the State by combining some Town/Village/MW&L projects (excluding FEMA projects). A notice of a public hearing for a change in the traffic section of the Town Plan was put out but was put out inaccurately as it referenced a new Town Plan instead of an amendment to the Town Plan. A repost of the corrected notice will go out with a new date for the hearing.

c. Any other Business to come before the meeting: None.

7) EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

8) ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING:

On a **motion** by Trustee Snipp and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the Board adjourned (4-0) the meeting at 6:49 PM.

Attest: Brad Limoge, Clerk