

VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE
WATER AND LIGHT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 1, 2024
Wednesday

5:30PM
MW&L Office

PRESENT:

Trustees: Tom Snipp, Travis Knapp (5:52 PM), Bob Heanue and Brad Limoge
Staff: Scott Johnstone, Kevin Newton and David Heller

1) CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER:

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

2) ANNUAL ORGANIZATION MEETING – ELECT CHAIR & CLERK:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Chairman Snipp, the board approved (3-0) Brad Limoge as Clerk. On a **motion** by Trustee Limoge and seconded by Chairman Snipp, the board approved (3-0) Robert Heanue as Chairman of the Board. Trustee Snipp passed control of the meeting to Chair Heanue.

3) CONSIDER AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS: Scott wanted to add a second reason for the expected Executive Session for Personnel - Section 313 (a)(1)(B) or Section 313(a)(3).

4) PUBLIC COMMENT: No members of the public were present.

5) APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD APRIL 3, 2024:

On a **motion** by Trustee Limoge and seconded by Trustee Snipp, the board approved (3-0) the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 3, 2024.

6) CHECK REGISTERS APPROVAL:

Questions were asked and answered on a couple of items. Then, on a **motion** by Trustee Snipp and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (3-0) the check registers.

7) TERM SHEET BATTERY PROJECT:

The term sheet is not a contract, just lays out the basic scenario of what everyone is getting into. As there is a 30-month lead time, it allows Encore to get in line to acquire the necessary components and to get the necessary permitting. On a **motion** by Trustee Snipp and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board authorized (3-0) management to enter into the proposed term sheet on behalf of MWL with Encore Renewable Energy.

8) PLANNING SERVICES PAYMENT APPROVAL:

On a **motion** by Trustee Limoge and seconded by Trustee Snipp, the board approved (3-0) the second payment of \$4,000 to the Town of Morristown for 2024 services of zoning and planning in support of the Village of Morrisville.

9) OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Annual Meeting Planning Debrief:

The Chairman mentioned we had an oversight that could have been corrected if someone had said something. Trustee Snipp thought it went very smooth, was very informative and was a pretty good presentation on Scott's behalf. He hasn't heard anything negative. Some people were surprised as they did not realize the scope and length of this situation with the hydro plants.

b. Management Update:

Kevin reported that we've been neck-deep with FEMA lately. They got out with three local contractors to look at the fill work to be done at Well #2, needed repairs to the Green River Access Road, and damage at Cady's Falls. Still awaiting a timeline from ERG on the Cady's Falls project. The Chairman stated that with the circuit breaker overhauls/repairs, we should look at replacing them with a company that will let us borrow one instead of letting them sit idle and cost us lost revenue. Morrisville Plant is running as best it can with the larger unit. For the smaller unit, the divers were able to confirm the head gates are free so the problem is with the actuator. We have a contractor to work on freeing up the actuator or replace it, if necessary. As we have to have the divers inspect the stilling pool at Green River, we will have them also give us a game-plan for the trash racks at the Morrisville Plant. We lost internet at Green River and spent most of yesterday and today working with Consolidated. Consolidated has been very cooperative but it is one of their oldest circuits. They did get it reestablished, though.

John and Brian have marked all of the curb stops and sewer service lines cleanouts for A&E to survey Harrison Avenue for a new water line upgrade. Engineering will be done this fall and it will go out to bid next spring. The bid opening for Best Street is tomorrow. The Town plans on working with (and paying) whomever wins the bid to address a sink hole in the area due to what is believed to be a collapsed storm drain pipe.

Scott has received three calls about the work taking place at 651 Elmore Street. None of that work is being done with ratepayer money and is 100% on the homeowner doing the subdivision. Any costs incurred by us will be charged to the customer. The pavement will be patched this week along with the two spots on Congress Street.

Line crews patrolled the transmission lines after the last significant wind storm. Substation maintenance is a monthly project especially this time of year when the birds like to nest in them. MPower maintenance is ongoing updating of our outage maps. We found why Hyde Park could not be fed electricity through our emergency tie switch. There was a breaker setting for the circuit that connects Hyde Park's system to our system that from the very beginning was not correct. It was only under storm conditions that the error was discovered. We have begun providing Hardwick Electric with after-hours on-call service. We have a formal schedule for three months that can be renewed between MW&L, HED, Orleans and Stowe with each utility covering one week per month. HED is down to one lineman who is on light duty due to an injury. The dredging pre-bid meeting took place and we have received two bids, with the lowest bidder being Blow & Cote.

Page Three
May 1, 2024

We spent a lot of time with FEMA last week and they brought their remediation person with them. So all of the repair work we are doing because of the floods should be done in a way to prevent it from happening again. We spent a lot of time talking about Well #2 and Well #3. It wasn't looking like they were terribly optimistic about working with us on remediation projects because the difference in the cost of fixing it and fixing it so it won't happen again is too big. The remediation person they brought with them this time seemed quite optimistic that they could work with us. One of our goals is to get one of the wells out of the way of where the river is trying to move to, which would be five times more expensive than repairing Well #2. Moving the generator was a no-brainer. Remediation projects are usually 100% covered whereas repairs are over 75% covered. The fact that we had a second flooding event at the wells in December only strengthens the case for remediation. We are still talking with VTrans about the alignment of Tenny Bridge damaging the aquifer and we brought it up with FEMA as well.

It looks like S213 will likely get vetoed. Scott is hearing that the Governor has planned to veto everything that comes to his desk. As it is a re-election year, the Legislators realize they can't stay in session for another month to override 30+ vetoes. The current thinking is that the only bill that they are going to override is the budget itself as you have to have an approved budget by July 1st or the State shuts down. This means all the other bills will die on the vine, including S213. Through Leonine and some friendly Legislators, we are trying to get the language related to the deadline for the study on Green River, which is in S213, added to the budget bill. Apparently ANR is not fighting it.

We have received one request so far for funds from Amy Wade and Special Projects funds. One of the ornamental lights on the Francis Favreau Bridge on Bridge Street broke off this winter (probably vandalized). At the time, they were not included in the Town's insurance policy. They are now. However, the Town is wondering if Special Project funds could be used to replace it (\$7,000).

Scott had included LCPC's request for Congressionally Directed Spending to expand and enhance the network of river gages serving Lamoille County Communities because LCPC specifically asked it be shared with the Trustees. It is nothing that MW&L has asked for. The Chairman made the comment that they want to do this river gage study to help with flood control yet the State won't even let us use the dam for flood control! So who cares? They tell us there's going to be a flood and we can say go ask the State if we can lower the level. By the time the State makes a decision, downtown Johnson is under six feet of water. And Cambridge is in Fairfax.

Scott got a quote from VTrans about the mile-long fence along the rail trail to help deal with homeless encampments of \$320,000. The funds they had last year got eaten up by flood recovery so they don't have any money. They are interested in filing a co-application for a grant to do it together. Trustee Snipp suggested instead of building a fence, install prickly bushes. The Chairman suggested that we stop trying to evict them and let them take over the rail trail. Then the State will have to do something.

At the VPPSA meeting today we heard a report from VELCO about their long-range transmission plan. They didn't get as aggressive as us in our IRP where we looked at what would happen if the State policy for electrification actually happened all the way. They modeled it at 60% adoption, not 100%. The Governor recently got criticized for saying it will cost one billion dollars for full electrification. VELCO has two projects that are over \$1 billion each on their project list. This is just VELCO and none of the distribution utilities.

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

10) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:44 PM, on a **motion** by Trustee Knapp and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the Board moved (4-0) to go into Executive Session to discuss item(s) excepted from open meeting – Section 313 (a)(1)(A), Section 313 (a)(1)(B), or Section 313 (a)(3).

At 6:57 PM, on a **motion** by Trustee Snipp and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the Board moved (4-0) to come out of Executive Session.

11) ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING:

On a **motion** by Trustee Limoge and seconded by Trustee Snipp, the Board adjourned (4-0) the meeting at 6:57 PM.

Attest: Brad Limoge, Clerk