

VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE
WATER AND LIGHT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 2, 2022
Wednesday

5:30PM
MW&L Office

PRESENT:

Trustees: Carl Fortune, Tom Snipp (via Zoom), Bob Heanue and Brad Limoge (via Zoom)

Staff: Penny Jones, Kevin Newton, Pete Crowley

Absent: Todd Deuso

Public: Greg Vernet

1) **CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER:**

Chairman Fortune called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

2) **CONSIDER AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:**

None.

3) **APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 16, 2022:**

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Snipp, the board approved (4-0) the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 16, 2022.

4) **APPROVE MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 9, 2022:**

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (4-0) the minutes of the special meeting held on February 9, 2022.

5) **APPROVE CHECK REGISTERS 2/17, 2/23 & 2/25:**

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (4-0) check registers 2/17, 2/23 & 2/25.

6) **APPROVE VERNET PROPERTY IN WATER SOURCE PROTECTION AREA:**

At the January 19th meeting, the Board questioned if they had the jurisdiction to approve or refuse this request. It was determined that they do not as the Village does not own the land. However, additional research found a study showing inground waste water disposal systems within the SPA was not prudent. Greg Vernet has subsequently made changes to his plan to assure there is no septic engineering within the SPA. The new proposed location of the septic is at least 50' west of the SPA boundary. The house and driveway are still proposed on the edge of the SPA. As the Board does not have jurisdiction, they appreciate the changes that have been made. If they require further changes, Mr. Vernet is willing to accommodate them.

7) **OTHER BUSINESS:**

a. **Management Update.** Kevin updated the Board on Operations issues. Staff met with our consultant, Dan Copp (WWTF), Todd Thomas (Town) and Jon Mogor (Soulmate Brewery) about his proposed RO system to treat his high-strength waste. He has yet to provide us with their engineering specification or an operation plan. Even the State is still waiting for more details. Our staff is not comfortable with having no control over what he will be discharging down the drains. If this project goes forward, we will need some type of access (6-foot manhole) to his sewer line under the sidewalk for testing purposes. As it is, the nearest manhole is in the middle of the road and not easily accessible for testing purposes.

Pete updated the Board on Electric issues. Sub #3 is back up to full operation however we will need to take it out of service again to install insulation on the new terminators. Sub #5 also needs work. Now that the two subs are equal, we can do this work without any distribution outages. We had an insulator on the B22 line along the Cady's Falls Road fail. We have a list of over 900 poles that are over 50 years old and will need attention, of which we have scheduled 50 for replacement this year. He is still working on selling excess stock from the rebuild of Sub 3. We have almost finished the repairs of trouble-issues found during the infra-red scans.

Penny updated the Board on Administrative issues. She is still working on year-end reports in preparation of the audit. We had to set up a net-pension liability fund which was a huge expense (approximately \$160,000). This is a non-cash asset but sets a large liability on our books. Our January power supply was over budget by approximately \$160,000 due to higher power costs, no hydro generation, and a crazy power market. VPPSA informed us they made a mistake on the power supply budget but Penny asked them to leave it alone as January ate up most of the difference. AMI funding is proceeding through the State. The VPPSA meeting discussed how to get the word out about how important municipal power is. The Village of Barton is looking at selling their utility but there is no indication as to who will buy it, VEC or the Village of Orleans. VPPSA is applying for a cyber-security grant for itself and all its members. VELCO continues to convene a Winter Readiness Task Force. There was a very brief discussion about our "black-start" abilities (re-energizing our system without any outside power sources via hydro and solar). If utilities cannot individually reduce loads in emergency situations, VELCO might have to drop the entire Lamoille County power loop. VHFA is working on a WRAP program for low/no interest loans for low-income energy efficiency projects. Trustee Heanue questioned if we have the staff to administer this program. Penny also questions how we would administer it, bill it, track it, etc.

b. Any other Business to come before the meeting. There will be many more issues at the next meeting as Ron Stancliff plans to be in attendance, Penny wants to talk about VERAP if Ken Nolan can make it and we need to re-appoint members to the DRB and Planning Commission.

8) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

9) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:47 PM, on a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (4-0) to go into executive session to discuss **a**) item(s) excepted from open meeting per Title 1 VSA § 313 (a)(3), the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee and to discuss **b**) item(s) excepted from open meeting per Title 1 VSA § 313 (a)(1)(E), pending or probable civil litigation or a prosecution, to which the public party is or may be a party. The board came out of executive session at 7:15 PM.

10) ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Attest: Tom Snipp