

VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE  
WATER AND LIGHT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 21, 2023  
Wednesday

5:30PM  
MW&L Office

PRESENT:

Trustees: Tom Snipp, Travis Knapp, Robert Heanue, Brad Limoge, and Carl Fortune

Staff: Scott Johnstone, Kevin Newton, and David Heller

Guests: Wayne Elliott (Aldrich & Elliott)

Public: David Ring

1) CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER:

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

2) CONSIDER AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS: Scott wanted to add a new Agenda Item #8 – Proclamation of Eric Dodge Day, which would move the remaining agenda items down one. On a motion by Trustee Limoge and seconded by Trustee Knapp, the board approved 5-0 adding a new Agenda Item #8 – Proclamation of Eric Dodge Day.

3) APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD JUNE 7, 2023:

On a **motion** by Trustee Knapp and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the board approved (4-0) the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 7, 2023, with Trustee Limoge abstaining.

4) CHECK REGISTERS:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Knapp, the board approved (5-0) the check registers.

5) AUTHORIZATION OF LIEN ON 205 CENTER ROAD, MORRISTOWN:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Fortune, the board approved (5-0) the lien on 205 Center Road, Morristown, Vermont, owned by Toddie and Robin Farrand, in the amount of \$477.72.

6) SPECIAL PROJECT REQUESTS AND APPROVAL:

The Board received the requested follow-up information on the proposed kiosk and proposed library project. In the meantime, the United Way has asked for funding to install snowguards and gutters along the southern side of their building at 110 Portland Street to protect pedestrians along a new public walkway they are trying to create in conjunction with the new apartment building on Hutchins Street. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Knapp, the board approved (5-0) to fund the Library's proposed kids' space in the amount of \$7,100 from the Special Project Fund. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Knapp, the board approved (5-0) to fund the RailTrail Kiosk with the remaining \$6,370.52 from the Special Project Fund.

7) AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH A LINE OF CREDIT:

On a **motion** by Trustee Limoge and seconded by Trustee Knapp, the board authorized (5-0) management to enter into an agreement to establish a line of credit for MWL with Union Bank. Further, management is required to report to the Trustees on a quarterly basis the use of and current balance of the line of credit.

8) PROCLAMATION OF ERIC DODGE DAY:

On a **motion** by Trustee Fortune and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the board approved (5-0) to proclaim June 23<sup>rd</sup> to be Eric Dodge Day in Morrisville.

9) OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Jersey Heights Pump Station Preliminary Engineering Report:

Wayne Elliot of Aldrich & Elliott (A&E) was in attendance to answer any questions and/or concerns about the preliminary engineering report prepared by his firm. We withdrew the original request for statement of qualifications as there were some errors in the solicitation. Those errors have been corrected and we will be going out for bids again soon. This study was funded from the sewer department to look at not only age, but capacity. Parts of that pump station were built in the early 1970's. This report follows all of the State's Clean Water templates which will allow the Village to tap into the State's Clean Water funds for design and construction. A&E spent a lot of time documenting the existing conditions (age). The Village has been proactive in replacing/adding components that can be reused in the rebuild. The other component is the incredible growth (existing and proposed) in this section of our sewer service area. They have determined that we are using about 90% of the capacity of one pump during peak flow times. They recommend increasing the pump capacity from 250 gpm to 350 gpm. The long-term problem is the force main will become too small at some point in the future. They looked at retrofitting the existing structure but that requires retrofitting a steel structure that is 20+ feet in the ground with an elevator. We've gotten our use out of the existing structure. They looked at a submersible pump station. They've looked at a dry pump station. The submersible pump station is the most favorable to the Village long-term and allows the reuse of the existing wet well and existing grinder. They propose adding a new wet well structure adjacent to it that will house the pumps. There will be a small building up top that will house the control panels and eliminate the confined-entry permit requirements. They plan to reuse the existing generator and transfer switch. The pumps will be designed to get to 350 gpm. They outlined the permitting requirements. Total project costs are projected to be \$1,070,000.

Trustee Heanue confirmed that A&E got their projected growth numbers from the Town. As A&E is proposing a new wet well next the existing wet well, the old one will handle the job until switched over to the new one with minimal interruption. Trustee Heanue asked if there was a ROW across the adjacent property for access. Staff will investigate. David Ring asked if the sewer from Washington Highway went to this station, which it does, and if the potential development around Copley was taken into consideration in the growth numbers. Part of the discussion with the Town was not only looking at approved projects but also areas of potential growth. At some point in the future, depending on how fast things grow, the undersized force main from this station to the area of the Creamery building will become the next limiting factor. David feels the force main should be part of the project but A&E pointed out that the force main has a different life expectancy than the steel structure and the force main may not be needed for another 5-10 years. Also, the elimination of the confined-space entry set up is desirable from a safety standpoint. You also have to be careful not to overbuild as a force main has specific operating criteria and building one too big would not be efficient. From an engineering

standpoint, if there is not the correct amount of flow, it is not efficient and doesn't work well and may even be detrimental to the whole system. David felt the difference between a 6" and an 8" force main is irrelevant. A&E says it is very relevant in that there is a huge difference in the capacity of a pump in the minimum velocity needed in a 6" pipe versus an 8" pipe. An 8" pipe is not only not needed right now, it could be detrimental.

The next step in this project is the Qualification-based Hiring Process to pick an engineer to go from here to the end of the project. Then design work will be done and construction-bid documents prepared. Along the way, we've got the legal reviews, the permitting to figure out, are we really going to use our sewer allocation funds, what is the State going to offer us, do we need to take out loans, do we need to bond. David pointed out that a lot of this information needs to be made available for engineers to bid and Scott replied the full study is on our website now.

b. Management Update:

The hole in Portland Street has been repaved. The wet tap by Maplefields was completed. We are waiting for ERG to assist with both units at Cady's Falls and one unit at the Morrisville plant. We have three nesting loons at Green River. Trustee Heanue verified that Habitat for Humanity pays regular water and sewer hookup fees.

Electric customer work has picked up. Our apprentices have gone through their mid-term exams via the NEPPA Apprentice Rodeo with Mike Leriche (3<sup>rd</sup> year) taking 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall out of 100+ apprentices. We began the underground electrical infrastructure improvements around Jersey Heights.

Penny and Scott went to the NEMRC informational meeting about our property appraisals. The appraisals on three of our properties have now been reduced. The appraisal on the Cady's Falls plant increased dramatically. A hydro station is not appraised by the value of the land and equipment, it is appraised as a business. We have submitted the generation records from the last three years at the going rate of power supply along with all of our expenses for the last three years. Scott feels that once this calculation is completed, that station will come in a lot closer to \$118,000 and not \$1.2 million estimated value we were sent.

Historically the Board only meets once per month during July and August, so Scott is recommending the third Wednesday of each month, July 19 and August 16.

Kevin has lined up Arrowwood to delineate the remaining lots on Trombley Hill for possible sale.

Our cyber-vulnerability assessment is due next week.

We have a contractor working on the sewer allocation and connection fees and we will have them also work on a water connection fees in conjunction with the development of a water ordinance that John Tilton is developing. You have to have a water ordinance before you can approve connection fees. We hope to have sewer allocations, along with water and sewer connection fees, this fall for the Board to review.

We have begun the process to get an injunction to replace transmission poles on a parcel in Stowe that we do not have an easement for and that the owner has refused to even let us enter upon. Today we filed a letter of intent with the Department of Energy as they have a solicitation out right now where you can get 30% of funds to improve dam safety. If we keep the Green River

Dam, there is about \$1.5 million in dam safety work needed there as a result of the new water quality permit, if it stands.

d. Any other Business to come before the meeting. The homeless encampment on Village property at the end of Stafford Avenue remains an ongoing problem. Police run them out of there every two weeks and they move right back in. Now that the Rail Trail is complete and the State is advertising it, VTrans, police, MW&L, and everyone else are getting calls all the time about illicit behavior and people strung-out running out onto the Rail Trail going after people. People are starting to be afraid to use that section of the Rail Trail. Scott has begun discussions with VTrans that if the State wants people to use the Rail Trail in Morrisville, they need to find a way to help us fence this area off. It's about 1 mile in length and would cost approximately \$150,000-\$200,000 to fence off. Scott has a meeting tomorrow with the Director of VTrans. As a utility, we can't use ratepayer money for this and as the Village, we don't have the funds. They build fences all the time and we will be happy to give them permission to build a fence on Village property. It is only a sliver of land between the Rail Trail and the top of the embankment but it is a mile long. We might even consider selling them the land to the top of the embankment. Scott has a meeting with ANR about Green River next week.

10) PUBLIC COMMENT: None

11) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:37 PM, on a **motion** by Trustee Limoge and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the Board approved (5-0) to go into Executive Session to discuss item(s) excepted from open meeting per Title 1 VSA § 313(a)3 – personnel/human resources.

At 6:57 PM, on a **motion** by Trustee Limoge and seconded by Trustee Fortune, the Board approved (5-0) coming out of Executive Session.

On a **motion** by Trustee Knapp and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the Board approved (5-0) compensation for the General Manager.

12) ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING:

On a **motion** by Trustee Limoge and seconded by Trustee Knapp, the Board adjourned (5-0) the meeting at 6:59 PM.

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Attest: Travis Knapp, Clerk