

VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE
WATER AND LIGHT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 6, 2023,
Wednesday

5:30PM
MW&L Office

PRESENT:

Trustees: Tom Snipp, Travis Knapp, Robert Heanue, Brad Limoge (via Zoom) and Carl Fortune
Staff: Scott Johnstone, Penny Jones and Kevin Newton

1) CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER:

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

2) CONSIDER AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS: None.

3) APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD AUGUST 16, 2023:

On a **motion** by Trustee Fortune and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the board approved (4-0) the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 16, 2023. Trustee Limoge abstained.

4) CHECK REGISTERS:

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

5) STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND APPLICATION:

We hired an engineer for the final design of the Jersey Heights Pump Station using qualification-based selection criteria. This allows us to get part of the engineering costs covered (up to 50%). In order to secure those funds, we need to submit a request for the Wastewater Revolving Loan Fund. Applying for a loan does not mean we actually have to take out a loan – we will if it creates an economic advantage for our customers. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Knapp, the board authorized management (5-0) to apply for Vermont’s Water Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund to support the rebuilding of the Jersey Heights Pump Station.

6) CASH FLOW MANAGEMENT AUTHORIZATION:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Knapp, the board authorized management (5-0) to utilize funds within the Green River Fund to pay for expenditures created by the Flood of 2023, with the intent that, once FEMA reimbursement is received, the FEMA funds will be restored to this fund. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board authorized management (5-0) to open a construction loan to support the rebuilding of the vertical turbine at Cady’s Falls. The intention is that, once the rebuild is completed and final costs are defined, the construction loan will be replaced by appropriate long-term debt for this rebuild project.

7) LIEN 81 MANSFIELD VIEW ROAD, STOWE, VT AUTHORIZATION:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board authorized management (5-0) to place a lien on the property at 81 Mansfield View Road in Stowe, Vermont, owned by Elizabeth Barrett in the amount of \$485.08.

8) OTHER BUSINESS:

a. 2023 Flood and FEMA updates:

We had our kickoff meeting the FEMA. After their inspections, they informed us our damage numbers were way too low. We cannot get reimbursed for internal labor for emergency repairs – and apparently debris removal (of which gravel is included) is considered emergency repairs even if conducted nine months later. We originally had them at \$1.4 million and we are now looking at \$3.4 million in damages between the water system, the hydro system and the electric system. Penny has been working with someone else at FEMA for Winter Storm Elliot where we were allowed to get reimbursed for internal labor. This second FEMA team was not aware of that so Penny is getting them connected to hopefully get on the same page. Using external contractors will only double the costs but FEMA is apparently okay with that. As we “own” the debris (approximately 25,000 yards), we have to provide a clear chain of custody for all debris. If we suspect any contamination, we will have to test it and include that in the chain of custody. Penny has finished all the submittals for Winter Storm Elliot (minus the horizontal repairs at Cady’s Falls).

b. Management Update:

The rack rake at Cady’s Falls works fine – no flood damage. At Morrisville, electric service has been restored to the gatehouse and the gate valve drives are good. We were able to close the gates to the big unit allowing Mike and John to inspect the penstock. There was no debris in it. The bladder on the crest control was not damaged but the compressor that inflates it was damaged.

The electric crews are still cleaning up debris/trees. They were also busy with normal duties and training. The tree trimming crews are making excellent progress. The Board asked for clarification on what the ownership structure is for electric service lines and also when MW&L will clear a service line.

Penny has been working on the rate case refunding (approximately \$178,000). We had to submit a plan to the PUC last Thursday about how we would do it. We have approximately 200 accounts that were finalled during this period that should get a refund. Penny is trying to get a waiver to not refund amounts under \$3 to customers that no longer have an account with us. So far, it sounds like the DPS is onboard. They just want to know what we will do with the \$137 dollars we do not refund. Penny & Kevin were on a conference call with the State about the Service Line Inventory Loan application. If the EPA mandates we do an inventory of any lead or copper service lines, the State might give us some loan money, possibly grant money, to conduct this (\$55,000-\$60,000). We have spent approximately \$22,000 on this to date.

Rock Art has signed our contract for the purpose of receiving a State grant of \$45,000 for replacement of old equipment. Scott and Penny continue to work with VPPSA on our IRP. The 3-year inspection (part 12D) of the Green River dam is coming up. In 2024, the State will inspect that dam with their own engineers. Our engineers, HL Turner, will be with them to review what the State’s engineers did and to fill in any gaps that the State doesn’t want to pay for. However, we cannot use HL Turner for the Part 12D inspection as they did the last two. Therefore, we will have to find a third engineer to complete the Part 12D inspection. When all is done, this will be one of the most inspected dams in the US! Scott heard that the Selectboard would like to schedule a joint meeting during the last part of October.

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

9) PUBLIC COMMENT: None

10) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:09 PM, on a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Fortune, the board approved (5-0) to go into Executive Session to for the discussion of item(s) excepted from open meeting per Title 1 VSA § 313 – (a)(1)E legal & (a)1(B) human resources.

At 6:21 PM, on a **motion** by Chairman Snipp and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the board approved (5-0) to come out of Executive Session. On a **motion** by Trustee Fortune and seconded by Trustee Knapp, the board approved (5-0) managements' bonuses for flood relief efforts.

11) ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING:

On a **motion** by Trustee Knapp and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the Board adjourned (5-0) the meeting at 6:22 PM.

Attest: Travis Knapp, Clerk