

VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE
WATER AND LIGHT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 20, 2023,
Wednesday

5:30PM
MW&L Office

PRESENT:

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

Staff: Scott Johnstone and Penny Jones

Guest: Todd Thomas

Public: Tom Cloutier

1) CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER:

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

2) CONSIDER AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS: None.

3) PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

4) APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 6, 2023:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (4-0) the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 6, 2023.

5) CHECK REGISTERS:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (4-0) the check registers.

6) JOINT RULES AMENDMENTS:

When it was first brought up that the rules needed to be amended, the Trustees asked the Selectboard to make their amendments and the Trustees would work from that. The Selectboard now has Joint Rules amendments that they would like the Trustees to review and possibly approve. Historically it has been difficult to fill the seats on the joint boards. Scott is not completely onboard with changing the rules to make it even more difficult for someone to fill a vacant seat. However, Morristown/Morrisville is currently at a moment of intense community interest in governance. As such, one could endorse such a change as a way to offer support for community involvement. As no motion was made, the item failed for lack of motion.

7) OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Potential Joint Meeting with Selectboard:

The Selectboard is interested in a Joint Meeting with the Trustees. However, they are not interested in meeting over a meal. They suggest one big table for both boards to hash out areas of common interest to both Morrisville and Morristown. The public would be invited but may not participate. The date proposed is October 25th at the VFW, as the Country Club is not available that day. The Board will work on a list of topics they are interested in discussing. A list of possible items for discussion will be shared with the Selectboard for their consideration.

b. Ownership and maintenance of electric service lines

Anything after the secondary bushings on the transformer is customer-owned. If their service is on a pole, the customer basically owns to the top of the pole. If anything fails, the customer is responsible for getting an electrician to supply the parts that have malfunctioned. However, in the middle of the night at -20° we have historically done the work to get the power back on. On overhead services, the point of attachment is the demarcation mark between what we own and what the customer owns. Prior to 2021, for underground services we owned from the bottom of the meter socket up. In 2021 that changed to the secondary bushings, making the meter socket and pedestal customer-owned. We do routine maintenance only to the connections behind the meter socket. For tree trimming aerial services, we do not have ROW's for the secondaries so our main concern are the high tension main lines. If a tree poses an immediate threat to their service, we will clear if we have the equipment to do it. If we do not have the equipment because the tree is too high or too big, we will coordinate with the customer's tree trimmers. Trustee Limoge verified that we do inform customers to maintain their own lines.

c. Management Update:

ERG and other consultants continue to assess whether Winter Storm Elliot may have caused the damage to the horizontal unit at Cady's Falls. The tail races at both Plant 1 & 2 need to be dredged out. The high water has finally dropped enough to see that both tail races are full. Permits with the State of Vermont and the Army Corp of Engineers have been filed for these two projects.

Tree trimming and customer jobs continue. The line crews finished the last known repair from the Flood.

The PUC ruled against our request to NOT refund finalled accounts where the refund is less than \$3. It will be very difficult to make a "reasonable" attempt to refund these small balances and will cost us more than \$3/check to do it.

The PUC has reduced the amount of time utilities have to consider how to offer electric vehicle rates so we are working with VPPSA to get a filing in by the October deadline. With EV rates, net metering, new finance and customer billing solutions, and AMI, management believes we will need to add to our customer service staff very soon.

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

8) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:30 PM, on a **motion** by Trustee Limoge and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the board approved (4-0) 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.

At 7:08 PM the board came out of Executive Session.

9) ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING:

On a **motion** by Trustee Knapp and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the Board adjourned (4-0) the meeting at 7:08 PM.

Attest: Travis Knapp, Clerk