

VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE  
WATER AND LIGHT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 4, 2023,  
Wednesday

5:30PM  
MW&L Office

PRESENT:

Trustees: Tom Snipp, Robert Heanue and Carl Fortune

Staff: Scott Johnstone, Penny Jones, Kevin Newton

Public: Kathy Chaffee and Alexander Cyr (via Zoom) and Tom Cloutier (via Zoom)

1) CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairman Snipp called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

2) CONSIDER AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS: None.

3) PUBLIC COMMENT: Tom Cloutier questioned having public comments before any agenda items. Scott explained that any item not on the agenda will not be brought up by the Trustees. The public is welcomed to make any comments they want but unless it has to do with a specific agenda item, the Board will not take it up. It can become an agenda item at the next meeting, if necessary. With the public comment section at the end of the meeting, it left the public only the ability to disagree after a vote by the Board. This allows input before a vote. Tom asked why the change? Scott informed him it was his suggestion based on his experience. If you allow a public comments section on every agenda item, the agenda item bogs down into a discussion and the Board is unable to make a decision.

Alexander Cyr suggested the Board start recording their Zoom meetings and posting them on YouTube. Scott informed him that we started that about four meetings ago.

Tom recommended that the Board Zoom their next joint meeting with the Selectboard as more people can access Zoom than physically attend a meeting.

Kathy verified that at the next joint meeting with the Selectboard, no one can ask questions? The Trustees decided at the last regular meeting that the purpose of a joint meeting was to have a discussion with the Selectboard so the public could observe it but couldn't be engaged in it. We are required to have a public comment time, either at the beginning or the end of the meeting. The Joint meeting is on October 25<sup>th</sup> and the public hearing on Zoning amendments is the week before. The agenda for the Joint meeting will be decided on by the two Chairs.

4) APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 20, 2023:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Fortune, the board approved (3-0) the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 20, 2023.

5) CHECK REGISTERS:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Fortune, the board approved (3-0) the check registers.

6) OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Management Update:

The water leak on Bridge Street is still there as the Town did not want us to disrupt Roctoberfest and we weren't able to get the concrete cutters until this week anyway.

We have planned to update the breakers in Sub #3, which have arrived. This will allow Sub #3 and Sub #5 to both be able to carry the full load, if necessary, making them back-ups to each other.

Office staff had Invoice Cloud training in anticipation of offering this online payment platform to our customers. When implemented, it will eliminate some extra work office has to perform for auto-pay customers and customers can start doing a lot of it themselves. We have a little more work to do with finalled accounts' rate adjustments before they are moved to accounts payable.

Scott attended a PUC meeting about utilities' responses to Winter Storm Elliott which came about because some very influential people on VEC and WEC's systems were without power for long periods. The municipal utilities responded very well because we have smaller systems, the correct amount of employees, and we don't have to spend  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a day driving to one location. The muni-model looked pretty good, by comparison to anything else in the state. Most of the other utilities turned the meeting into what their technological plans were going to be to cut down on outages so everyone should buy a battery from us or underground the lines. GMP is proposing to start undergrounding their lines, which they admit will be very expensive. VEC said they looked at that but it was too expensive. What was odd about this hearing is the Public Utility commissioners never come to these workshops, they have a staff member attend. This hearing all three commissioners were in attendance and all three asked a lot of questions of everybody. What they generally heard was there was nothing to do here. Even the big utilities did better on this storm than the one in 2017, which was a smaller storm. Everyone is doing better. But because of the politics involved, Scott is concerned about any new mandate the PUC might come up with in response. Scott attended a VPPSA meeting today and we are actually ahead of the purchased power budget, for a change.

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

7) EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

8) ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING:

On a **motion** by Trustee Fortune and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the Board adjourned (3-0) the meeting at 6:07 PM.

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Attest: Robert Heanue, Clerk