

VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE  
WATER AND LIGHT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 18, 2023,  
Wednesday

5:30PM  
MW&L Office

PRESENT:

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

Staff: Scott Johnstone, Penny Jones, Kevin Newton and David Heller

Guest: Todd Thomas and Etienne Hancock

Public: Alexander Cyr (zoom)

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:

The Chairman noted that this public comment section was for anything but zoning as there will be a public comment section after the zoning portion of the meeting. No other comments.

4) ZONING & SUBDIVISIONS BYLAW AMENDMENTS (specific public comments to topic):

The Chairman opened the zoning public hearing at 5:31 PM. Todd Thomas explained that the changes were minor and basically fixed DRB interpretations issues. The biggest part was Section 206, which brings the same design criteria and enhancements to larger parts of the Village. There are flood rule changes included and parking requirements. Dumpsters will not be allowed in the residential zone of the village. Another change is to encourage open spaces to stay open so developments need to connect to the municipal water/sewer system. Some definitions were revised. Section 207 has added Park Street. Copley Avenue may be added at a future revision. Scott would like to bring MW&L's water ordinance and our sewer ordinance to the Selectboard at a future meeting. At 5:58 the hearing was recessed.

5) APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD OCTOBER 4, 2023:

The date of the joint meeting with the Selectboard needs to be changed to October 25, 2023. On a **motion** by Trustee Fortune and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the board approved (4-0) the amended minutes of the regular meeting held on October 4, 2023.

6) CHECK REGISTERS:

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

7) LIEN APPROVAL:

On a **motion** by Trustee Limoge and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the board authorized management (4-0) to place a lien on 147 Bridge Street in Morrisville, owned by 147 Bridge, LLC, in the amount of \$644.73.

8) OTHER BUSINESS:

a. AMI Update:

It's been a little over a year since the Trustees authorized management to enter contracts with VPPSA to implement Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI). Getting access to a State grant to provide about ½ of the funding needed and negotiating contracts with Aclara (the AMI vendor) has been very time consuming. Staff has begun attending meetings laying out timelines and how it will happen. The electric crews will begin some make-ready work this winter. There will be contractor vehicles driving very slowly all over our service territory in order to find the correct FCC bandwidth. The contractor will let us know when they plan to begin so we can notify our customers. Scott thinks the soonest we will begin installing meters will be late 2024 or early 2025. MW&L is in the second group to make this change which allows the first group to go through all the pain. There will be tons of training required.

b. Management Update:

The water department was able to get the leak on Bridge Street repaired. It was next to impossible to find a paving company to do the work because everyone is trying to finish their projects before winter. They found a small hole in the top of the 4" main that they slid an 18" sleeve over. They found a 6" sewer main that they didn't know existed and a 2" service line that they don't know what it serves, if anything. The Chairman asked about water losses. Kevin has not run the numbers recently, but Penny said there is still a difference that is partly due to the timing between reading customers' water meters and the monthly reading from the well. Hopefully AMI will allow us to align the reading up better for reporting purposes.

Plant 2 is back online and both units are operational but at a low level due to the gravel build up in the river from the flood. Once dredging is done, we can dewater the gatehouse and penstock and more fully assess any remaining damage. Plant 1 is still offline. ERG was up this week sandblasting with dry ice rice to clean all the coils on the vertical unit. Still waiting for word on the thrust bearing on the horizontal unit and when they can get that done. We've learned from FEMA that we can submit for lost revenue (generation) from both Winter Storm Elliot and the summer flooding. Also, the 8-9 days we were without potable water this summer due to flooding, we can submit for reimbursement a flat rate for each customer. Plant 3 has been running to capture peaks and to keep from spilling. We have begun the annual 2-foot drawdown of Lake Elmore so camp owners can get their docks out of the water. Until the status of the backup generator for the well is established, we have no backup other than our electric crews concentrating on getting that circuit back up. If necessary, we could rent a generator but the flood this summer proved we could go five days without pumping.

Bids were received for Gatehouse #2 dredging. Working through the insurance portion of the project as additional insurance is needed to dredge. We sent the bid out to 8-9 contractors and received one response. A busy construction season is wrapping up and we are moving onto capital projects. The new breakers for Sub #3 have been received. A transmission switch for Sub #5 has been received which will allow easier transfer of loads from Sub 3 to Sub 5, and visa versa. The parking lot lights here at the office have been switched out to LED's so they can stay on all night and not disturb the neighbors. The Trustees verified where we have security cameras in place.

Penny attended a VPPSA meeting on potential centralized software for all VPPSA members to use for billing and financials. FEMA continues to eat up huge amounts of time. Even though all repair work is supposed to be completed within one year, FEMA keeps insisting that if our repairs go out two, even three, years it will be okay. Even though we cannot conclusively prove that Winter Storm Elliot damaged the horizontal unit at Cady's Falls, our consultants have tested every other possible cause and couldn't find

any. The unit was working before the storm and was not after, and the experts in the field have ruled out all other causes. FEMA seems to have accepted this and is now waiting for actual costs to repair.

Scott is trying to work out the details of an upcoming Legislative breakfast on November 7th. Scott wants to talk about Green River, renewable energy standards and flooding updates. They should be pushing back on ANR about encouraging drawdowns, not stopping them. If we had been able to draw down Green River before the flood, there would have been that much less water at our two plants and in Johnson. If you want to have an impact on flood control, let's use the reservoirs we already have for flood control. The Legislature could mandate that. Those are the kind of topics that we want them to hear our side of the story before they only hear the advocates' side. Friday, Penny and Scott will get their final score on cyber security. Once we have this report, we may be eligible for federal money to help with our cyber security. It will also help us prioritize where we need the money first.

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

9) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:39 PM, on a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Fortune, 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)C arbitration or mediation.

At 7:15 PM, on a **motion** by Chairman Snipp and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the board approved (4-0) coming out of Executive Session.

10) ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING:

On a **motion** by Trustee Limoge and seconded by Trustee Fortune, the Board adjourned (3-0) the meeting at 7:17 PM.

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Attest: Robert Heanue, Clerk