

VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE
WATER AND LIGHT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 20, 2023,
Wednesday

5:30PM
MW&L Office

PRESENT:

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

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

Guest: Alex McClain and Todd Thomas

1) CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER:

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

2) CONSIDER AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS: None.

3) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:30 PM, on a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the Board approved (4-0) to go into executive session to discuss item(s) excepted from open meeting 1 VSA 313(a)(1)(E).

On a **motion** by Chairman Snipp and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the Board approved (4-0) coming out of executive session.

4) PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

5) APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD DECEMBER 6, 2023:

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

6) CHECK REGISTERS:

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

7) PLANNING COUNCIL MEMBER APPOINTMENT:

Todd Thomas was present to explain who the Planning Council was recommending for appointment after meeting with two of the potential candidates. The Planning Council recommends James Morris. The Selectboard acted favorably on that recommendation at their meeting on Monday. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Fortune, the board approved (4-0) the appointment of James Morris to fill the vacancy on the Planning Council.

8) OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Draft Budget 2024:

The Board reviewed the draft 2024 budgets for the Water Department and the Sewer Department. Currently, no rate increase seems to be needed for the Sewer Department, we might need a 5% rate increase for the Water Department (the first since 2015), and we definitely will need the 2% rate increase

for the Electric Department that is allowed without a formal rate case. Further discussions to follow at the next regular meeting.

b. Management update:

Because of the recent flooding, the Water Department stopped pumping water to the reservoirs until after the Lamoille River had crested, eliminating any potential of another “Do not use the water” order. Although Well #3 was not flooded, Well #2 (which is completely offline) was flooded again. This speaks volumes about rebuilding Well #2. Plant #1 remains offline, Plant #2 is run-of-the-river, and Plant #3 was being run to keep from spilling. However, during the most recent flood, we stopped generating at Green River to keep that extra water out of the Lamoille River.

The line crews provided mutual aid to Hyde Park Electric. Kyle Johnson has completed his 4-years of class time for his apprenticeship.

In our proposed IRP, we looked at what effect total electrification would have on our system. VELCO has been doing the same thing. Their current estimate is that even if only 60% of electrification occurs, MW&L’s transmission lines would need \$16 million in upgrades. One of the things that Scott wants to investigate with VELCO, if this is a policy of the State of Vermont, is VELCO going to push the Legislature to help pay the bills. And if so, are they going to pass that money down to the local transmission owners.

Penny has been working on budgets and testing our new online account access/payment platform. Staff is also working on year-end inventory reconciliations.

FEMA has extended the deadline for submitting damages from the July flood until July 2024. For the Amy Wade projects, the Town got their kiosk project completed so they will receive their funds. The Library could not get a contractor to do their project this year and they plan to reapply next year. We have a proposal that VPPSA is reviewing to install a 5-MW battery near Substation #3. We are also looking at modular battery back up services for some of our customers that have shown interest.

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

9) ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING:

On a motion by Trustee Fortune and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the Board adjourned (4-0) the meeting at 7:02 PM.

Attest: Bob Heanue, Clerk