

VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE  
WATER AND LIGHT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 21, 2024  
Wednesday

5:30PM  
MW&L Office

PRESENT:

Trustees: Tom Snipp, Travis Knapp, Bob Heanue, Brad Limoge (via Zoom) and Carl Fortune  
Staff: Scott Johnstone, Penny Jones, Kevin Newton and David Heller  
Public: Evelyn & Jerry Throne

1) CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairman Snipp called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

2) CONSIDER AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS: Scott wanted to add Agenda #6a – Amy Wade Report. On a **motion** by Trustee Knapp and seconded by Trustee Fortune, the board approved (5-0) adding Amy Wade Report to Agenda Item #6a.

3) PUBLIC COMMENT: Jerry Throne wondered if there could be a tour of the electric facilities. Scott replied that we would like to still get the public to our facilities but our plans were disrupted by the flooding. Scott plans to conduct a tour in the spring or summer even though we are still repairing the two big hydro sites. Currently they are in pieces and parts. We will announce any tours through social media.

4) APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 7, 2024:

On a **motion** by Trustee Fortune and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the board approved (5-0) the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 7, 2024.

5) CHECK REGISTERS:

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

6) MODIFY MEETING SCHEDULE FOR MARCH OF 2024:

With the Annual Meeting now scheduled for April 17, 2024, the Board has a very narrow window to approve both the warrant and the proposed budget. Neither of the Board's regular meetings in March fall within this new window of March 8 through March 18. It is recommended to replace the two regular scheduled meetings in March 2024 with one meeting on March 13, 2024. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Knapp, the board approved (5-0) having a special meeting of the Village Trustees on March 13, 2024, and also to eliminate the regular meetings on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

6a) AMY WADE REPORT:

Penny reviewed the financial standing of the Amy Wade Fund. Penny recommends adding the entire interest earned on the CD in 2023 to the principal to keep up with inflation. On a **motion** by Trustee Knapp and seconded by Trustee Fortune, the board approved (5-0) adding the 2023 earned interest of \$4,928 on the Amy Wade fund to the principal and, if a qualified project is presented at a later date, the Board can decide to appropriate Amy Wade funds accordingly.

7) OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. Annual Meeting Planning: The VFW hall has been reserved for the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Cash Balance/Line of Credit Report:

The Board reviewed the quarterly(ish) report they requested. We have not touched the line of credit for a number of months. The ARPA funds need to be used by the end of 2025.

- c. Management Updates:

ERG is here! They are prepping for everything they can for the arrival of the bearing for the horizontal. The bearing is enroute from Iowa. They looked at the safety line and the thrust bearing on the big unit at Plant #2. Trustee Heanue wondered if we could install a vibration monitoring system on the horizontal. A limit switch to shut down the unit usually means too much damage has occurred before it activates. Kevin will explore.

We had another water leak on Congress Street, resulting in a loss of approximately 50,000 gallons per day. 201 Bridge Street will come online soon as will the Jersey Heights unit next to Maplefields. Logging at Bugbee Springs is approaching \$20,000 in revenue with the funds going to the Water Department.

The Electric Department is picking up the slack from Frank's leave of absence. Eric needs assistance reading meters a couple of days for each of the three reading cycles. Some straggling customer jobs are still out there. We completed a 3-pole line extension on Leo & Lois Lane. We are conducting capital improvements in the Mansfield View area of Stowe. The annual infrared analysis was conducted on our system. They identified that the transformer bank at People's Academy needs some immediate attention. They also located about half a dozen other minor hot spots. Dave met with VELCO and Stowe Electric. They want to use a portion of our transmission line that would require an upgrade to some of our transmission poles, but not for higher voltage. We received the breaker foundations from LWI for Sub #3. One of our linemen is moving on to greener pastures which will leave us one lineman down.

Penny continues to work on year-end bookkeeping, FEMA and our new payment platform. Registration numbers continue to increase and phone calls have decreased slightly. Penny and Kevin met with our insurance company regarding the flood. What our insurance doesn't cover, FEMA does. We got notification last week from FEMA that there are certain blocks of dates that are covered 100%. Penny and Scott met with VPPSA about the proposed 2% rate increase. With a few more journal entries, we should be able to get them a draft of our 2023 financial statement to begin the process.

Trustee Heanue wondered if we have pursued the State about the realignment of Tenny Bridge which is causing severe erosion at our Well #2 and the aquifer below it. Scott has sent a note to VTrans and is fairly certain the answer will be "we didn't do it". But they are on notice that we are asking them questions about hydrology reports that they may have performed in designing the new bridge. They did get a permit from the Corp of Engineers to redirect the river for the project but we have not seen it yet. Todd Thomas is planning on us having a public hearing on the S100 zoning changes on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Scott asked if they kept to what we asked of them which was to keep it only to changes to S100. His response was "mostly". Scott told him to be prepared to have any items not centered around S100 to not be included. Today we got our first look at a draft site plan asking for our ability to serve electricity to it for

something we know is going to become controversial, the proposed industrial park across from the airport. We will inform them we can serve, depending on projected loads, but we will not be subsidizing this project in any way. If they need to extend our infrastructure to serve them, they will pay for it. Extending municipal water lines to the site is already off the table. Jerry Throne asked if the transmission line would need to be relocated. It will not as they have planned around it but, they will have to give us a Right of Way Easement for the transmission line which we currently do not have. The Senate has dropped the strict liability language from S213. The only question is will the House try to add it back in. VELCO's draft transmission study for the whole state is finally addressing the \$1.4 billion in upgrades the state transmission system will need to support full electrification. It doesn't mean that electric rates are going to become something so crazy expensive that it's unaffordable by comparison. It doesn't mean your total energy bill after the transition will be worse than it is today. But all of the costs are now being put on the table for the first time so a real analysis of under what circumstances do people win or lose can begin. Our sub-transmission system will also play an important role but there has been no real analysis to begin to develop the costs of upgrading it.

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

8) EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

11) ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Knapp, the Board adjourned (5-0) the meeting at 6:27 PM.

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Attest: Bob Heanue, Clerk