

VILLAGE OF MORRISVILLE  
WATER AND LIGHT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 19, 2022  
Wednesday

5:30PM  
MW&L Office

PRESENT:

Trustees: Carl Fortune, Tom Snipp, Bob Heanue and Brad Limoge (via Zoom)

Staff: Penny Jones, Kevin Newton, Todd Thomas

Absent: Todd Deuso

Public: Greg Vernet, Ron Stancliff (via Zoom)

1) CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER:

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

2) CONSIDER AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:

None.

3) APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD JANUARY 5, 2022:

On a **motion** by Trustee Snipp and seconded by Trustee Heanue, the board approved (4-0) the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 5, 2022.

4) APPROVE CHECK REGISTERS 1/5 & 1/13:

On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (4-0) check registers 1/5 & 1/13.

5) APPROVE SEPTIC IN WATER SOURCE PROTECTION AREA:

Greg Vernet, who owns property on Park Street inside our Water Source Protection Area, would like to build a house on his property with an in-ground wastewater disposal system. The state has approved the design of the septic system. Within the Water Supply Rule, there is reference to prohibited land use of septic tanks. Penny's recommendation is to not allow it. Mr. Vernet, wanting to work with the Village, had his engineers move the septic outside the SPA, but asked if it was okay if only the house was within the SPA. However, his question is who has the ultimate authority – the State or the Trustees. He plans to plant Christmas trees on a portion of the land, aware that he cannot use pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, etc. The Town Zoning allows septic in an SPA but are limited to one per acre. Chairman Fortune would like to find out who has ultimate authority because it is the Trustees that are ultimately responsible for the safety of our water supply. The Board asked that this item be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting. Todd pointed out that one way around this issue is if the building site for the house was built up, then they would have the elevation difference needed to place the septic outside the SPA. Trustee Heanue is against jeopardizing the Village water supply in any way for anybody. MW&L purchased the Gregory property to stop development there.

6) OTHER BUSINESS:

b. Trustee Deuso Zoning Question. Trustee Deuso had emailed the Chair asking for a discussion about Village zoning. His question was how would a resident go about changing the zoning rules and what role, if any, the Trustees play in this. Todd Thomas was available to discuss this. His answer was,

anyone can pitch a zoning change idea. Todd takes it to the Planning Council for discussion. They discuss it and if they like it, it gets voted on and gets included in the next Zoning change. If you want to bypass the Planning Council, you need a petition with 5% of the registered Village voters before it gets presented to the Trustees/Selectboard. Then the usual public hearings ensue before any Zoning changes can be adopted.

c. Town Plan Discussion. This was originally on the agenda to update the board as to where we stand with approval of the Town Plan. Todd approached Penny to inform her the Selectboard had adopted all the changes the Trustees proposed. There were six additional changes discussed, all but one were eventually shot down. The Selectboard want to add a sentence about supporting bike and pedestrian travel for all road projects. Trustee Heanue's concern is there is no consideration about costs and that this sentence is so vague that someone could argue that any new road has to include sidewalks and bike lanes. Todd proposed adding one phrase to the sentence about road improvements on pages 15 and 16. The proposed addition is highlighted: "All road improvement projects, including those mentioned above, should be planned with measures to increase safety and accessibility for bicycle riders and pedestrians, with due consideration given for budgetary concerns, as approved by Town Meeting. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Snipp, the board approved (4-0) the amended sentence.

a. Management Update. The energization of Sub #3 is delayed due to David Heller's absence. We issued a trickle notice to 40 customers that are at risk of having their water services freeze. Our usage will be up as compared to sales because we will not bill those customers for their extra usage to trickle the water. The current water meter transmitters are not going to be compatible with AMI. As the units fail, we hope to replace them with units that will work with our current billing system and AMI that is coming. Staff is working on inventory reconciliation. Penny is working on quarterly filings. Still working on filling Controller position.

d. Any other Business to come before the meeting. Ron Stancliff is asking to be included on the February Agenda to discuss some of the Village land. As time and staffing will be short in February, Ron stated he could wait until a later date. Penny also suggested that Ron put his thoughts in writing so the Board can see it in advance. Ron stated that as the State was the one's to establish the SPA, then the state should be the one's to approve the construction. But he also acknowledged that the Trustees have ultimate responsibility for the protection of the wells.

Penny and the Board need to schedule the Annual Village meeting. Penny's preference is to not hold it in April. The Board felt that August was good.

7) PUBLIC COMMENTS:  
None.

8) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:51 PM, on a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Snipp, the board approved (4-0) to go into executive session to discuss **a**) item(s) excepted from open meeting per Title 1 VSA § 313 (a)(2), negotiating or securing of real estate purchase or lease options and to discuss **b**) item(s) excepted from open meeting per Title 1 VSA § 313 (a)(1)(B), labor relations agreements with employees and to discuss **c**) item(s) excepted from open meeting per Title 1 VSA § 313 (a)(3), the appointment or

Page Three  
January 19, 2022

employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee. The board came out of executive session at 7:37 PM. On a **motion** by Trustee Heanue and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (4-0) the Manager's salary increase as discussed in Executive Session with annual salary reviews.

9) ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING:

On a **motion** by Trustee Snipp and seconded by Trustee Limoge, the board approved (4-0) to adjourned the meeting at 7:39 PM.

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Attest: Tom Snipp